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# THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 14 May 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,610

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

## Blair flies in to rescue 'Yes' vote as Protestants waver

By David McKibbin and Colin Brown

TONY BLAIR flies to Belfast today amid mounting concerns that divisions within the Protestant and Unionist community may mean there is a less than convincing "yes" vote in the 22 May Ireland referendum.

On present patterns the Good Friday agreement is in some difficulty because large numbers of Unionists remain undecided on how to vote.

To gain real moral and political authority the agreement needs to secure a majority of both Protestant and Catholic voters. While Catholics are clearly overwhelmingly in favour of the accord, the necessary Protestant majority does not exist at this moment.

The Government is now depending on the emergence of a decisive pro-agreement swing before the vote. Mr Blair's visit is targeted mainly at persuading Unionist doubters to support the agreement.

The Prime Minister will reiterate his message of a year ago when, soon after his election, he went to Ulster and declared "I value the Union".

Faced with the latest polling evidence which shows a large section of the loyalist community still undecided, he will repeat the assurance he gave to the Unionists when he said: "None of us in this hall today, even the youngest, is likely to see Northern Ireland as anything but a part of the United Kingdom."

Private polling is showing that the nationalist community is strongly in favour of a "yes" vote, but the "don't know" among the Unionists are running as high as 30 per cent, with the rest of the Unionists equally divided between the "yes" and "no" camps. "There is still a large swathe of don't knows that are yet to be persuaded and that may run right up to polling day," said a Westminster source.

Sinn Féin yesterday voiced concerns that Mr Blair might go too far today in his attempts to woo Unionists, warning that too many concessions might upset republican voters. Mr Blair may well calculate, however, that with Catholic and nationalist votes essentially in the bag, his job is to reach Unionist opinion.

He can be expected to address key Unionist concerns, which centre on the security of the union with Britain and



Protestants going to a 'no-vote' protest rally in Antrim. Campaigners are holding nightly rallies across the Province to drum up support

Photograph: Brian Harris

the questions of decommissioning, the early release of prisoners and the future of policing.

Unionist indecision is not due to apathy, since broadcasters report huge audiences for programmes on the agreement.

It is believed that the recent visit to Belfast by Mr Blair and former prime minister John Major, together with the launch of the Ulster Unionist Party's "Yes" campaign, had a significant im-

pact on Protestant voting intentions. On the other hand, the televising of the rapturous reception given to the Balcombe Street gang at the weekend Sinn Féin and their obviously produced a negative reaction among Protestants.

One observer said: "It's volatile out there. People are having difficulty finally making up their minds one way or another, but equally they are listening to what is being said."

The "No" campaign led by the Rev

lan Paisley has meanwhile stepped up its activities, holding almost nightly rallies all over Northern Ireland to drum up opposition to the agreement.

At Prime Minister's Questions yesterday, Mr Blair condemned the "tribunalism" of men who had been involved in IRA killings at Sinn Féin's weekend conference. "The victims of violence have suffered enormously. We do not forget their suffering. I do believe that the peace agreement gives

us the best way forward to ensure that there are not more victims in the future," he said. He repeated his demands that all parties to the peace deal should accept the Good Friday agreement in its entirety. He was responding to fears voiced by Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble that Sinn Féin might take the benefits of places in the assembly and prisoner releases, without fully signing up to the deal.

"Minister for victims", page 4

## The truth behind tragedy of Child B

By Jeremy Laurence  
Health Editor

VENOMOUS disagreements between the cancer specialists involved in the care of Child B, the 10-year-old girl who became the centre of worldwide media attention after the National Health Service refused to fund a second bone-marrow transplant for her leukaemia, are revealed in a report published today.

The first detailed study of the case, which was presented as the worst example of NHS rationing when it occurred in 1995, shows a bitter dispute between the paediatricians who felt she should be allowed to die in peace and the adult leukaemia specialists prepared to buy more time at any cost.

Child B, later identified as Jaymee Bowen, who died in May 1996, won the hearts of millions when she was shown on a BBC *Panorama* programme in October 1995 delivering a crushing riposte to the managers of Cambridge Health Authority for refusing to fund the £75,000 cost of her extra treatment.

"Thank you for nothing. Because now look at me, I'm fine. You could have paid for it. You had the chance and you blew it," she said.

The King's Fund report says: "The central issue was less to do with finance than what care was appropriate for a child with Jaymee's medical history."

The paediatricians at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, and the Royal Marsden in London attacked the "maverick medicine" practised at Hammer-smith hospital and the private Portman clinic in London, where she was finally treated, saying that they were prepared to go ahead whatever the human cost. The adult specialists in turn castigated the "paediatric mafia" with their conservative and inflexible attitudes.

Jaymee's last days, page 16  
Leading article, page 18

## £300,000 payout for policewoman

By Jason Bennetto  
Crime Correspondent

A FEMALE detective who was nicknamed "Massive Cleavage" and victimised when she complained of sexual harassment was awarded an estimated £300,000 yesterday.

Dee Mazurkiewicz, 42, had her career with Thames Valley police ruined by a campaign of intimidation and insults including claims she obtained confessions from suspects by getting her boobs out.

An industrial tribunal in Reading, Berkshire, ruled in her favour last November, but yesterday the force agreed to pay her compensation. This is believed to include £21,000 for every one of the 14 years remaining of her career.

A police source, however, suggested that the undisclosed payment was in fact significantly lower.

The Police Federation, which represented Ms Mazurkiewicz, described the award as a landmark decision. It said other cases had not gone the whole way: they had either been settled outside tribunals or decisions have been appealed against by police forces.

Thames Valley police is currently appealing against another tribunal ruling in favour of a female officer, Kay Kellaway, who won a sexual discrimination case last October.

Ms Mazurkiewicz said yesterday: "It is a great relief for me that this is finally over. It has taken four years of my life."

"It has been very difficult for



Mazurkiewicz, whose career was ruined by campaign

me. I feel very emotional. I have won my court case but I have lost my job. I have lost an awful lot.

"My career was what was important to me and no compensation can make up for that."

Ms Mazurkiewicz will retire from the force on Sunday on the grounds of ill health.

## Sandline boss backed by Gulf war general

By Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

THE HEAD of Britain's forces in the Gulf War gave a personal recommendation to a foreign politician supporting Tim Spicer, the man at the centre of the Sierra Leone affair, it emerged last night.

General Sir Peter de la Billiere, gave a "favourable reference" for Col Spicer, who was once a personal aide, according to Chris Haiveta, then deputy prime minister of Papua New Guinea.

The country later engaged Col Spicer's company, Sandline International, to recapture a rebel-held mine but the operation ended in ignominy. Col Spicer was arrested and the government of the former British protectorate was forced to resign.

In 1991 Col Spicer spent six months as military assistant to Sir Peter, then the most senior British officer in the Gulf. Five years later, after Col Spicer had left to set up the mercenary firm

Sandline International, Mr Haiveta asked Sir Peter about Col Spicer, after his company had been recommended to his government. Asked if the general had provided a good reference, he replied: "Yes, he did and indeed Spicer was his MA or executive officer or someone like that."

Yesterday, Sir Peter confirmed through an aide that he believed he had been asked about Col Spicer and had responded with some "general comments" about his character. He had no knowledge of Sandline. His agents, Curtis Brown, said the conversation did not amount to a reference.

The inquiry report into the affair reveals a number of parallels with recent events in Sierra Leone. Customs and Excise officers are investigating claims that Sandline broke a United Nations embargo against the African country with the knowledge of Foreign Office officials. Papua New Guinea officials told last year's inquiry that they met Mr Spicer in London, in

April 1996, on the same day as they also met Foreign Office officials to talk about arms purchases. They also said they believed they were recruiting serving British soldiers and not mercenaries.

After Col Spicer was arrested in March 1997, he used the British High Commissioner's residence to give a press conference.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook was yesterday heading for a clash with the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. He is expected to rebuff a demand from the committee to hand over telegrams sent by diplomats in Sierra Leone to the Foreign Office.

The Labour-dominated committee agreed the move in a private session before the Foreign Secretary's Commons statement yesterday.

However, Mr Cook told the House that such telegrams were "restricted in circulation" as they could contain material "embarrassing to Her Majesty's Government and others".

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## 10 die in riots

TEN people were killed in rioting after Indonesia's opposition leaders called on the army to join them in deposing President Suharto. Page 14

## More N-tests

BRUSHING aside the worldwide denunciation of its three nuclear tests on Monday, India yesterday exploded two more devices. Page 13



## CONTENTS

**Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.**

**By Kathy Marks**

Officers on his squad also failed to pass on promptly two "clearly important" tips they received about the identity of the alleged killers, he added.

■ A memorial plaque at the spot where Stephen died has been vandalised for the second time in just over two months.



Photograph: SCPA

**By Katherine Butler**  
in Brussels

The European Parliament approved proposals for a ban on advertising tobacco products within eight years. It leaves member-states with no option but to change laws to phase out all tobacco publicity and sponsorship of sporting events by 2006 at the latest. The lengthy phase-in was designed primarily to accommodate British

Sir Frank Rogers, chairman of the European Publishers Council, said: "MEPs have participated in an undemocratic process. We are now preparing our legal challenges at national level."

Clive Bates, director of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), said there was a danger that legal objections could delay implementation of the legislation. Under the directive print media will have to cease

Supporters fear legal challenges could be used by Germany and Austria, which opposed the ban but lacked the votes to block it when it was put to the council of ministers, to stall its implementation. Austria takes over the EU presidency from Britain in July.

**By Barrie Clement**  
Labour Editor

The present leadership of the union will face a considerable battle against Mr Rix, considered to be an expert on ASLEF's constitution.

**Outlook for the next few days**  
Those showers over north-western parts of Scotland will clear away by Saturday, leaving it dry across the country with a fair amount of sunshine. The hottest spot are going to become a bit less warm, with a heavier feel to the weather, but it will be pleasant nonetheless. The nights will turn colder than recently but most areas will stay frost-free. Patches of mist or fog could develop in the small hours, clearing quickly in the mornings.

## British Isles weather

most recent available figure at noon local time  
C: cloudy; Cl: clear; F: fog; Fo: fog; H: haze; M: mist; B: rain

Abereenvay	F	13.55	Bourneasy	S	22.75
Aberdeen	S	20.68	Inverness	S	12.75
Ayr	S	18.54	Isleach	S	24.75
Belfast	C	14.67	Isles of Scilly	C	19.75
Birmingham	C	17.63	Jersey	F	15.75
Blackpool	C	19.66	Liverpool	F	19.75
Bournemouth	C	23.73	London	C	21.75
Bristol	C	16.64	Manchester	C	21.75
Cardiff	F	16.63	Newcastle	C	11.75
Cardislee	F	16.63	Oxford	C	19.75
Carrislee	F	16.61	Plymouth	F	19.75
Dover	F	18.64	Scarborough	C	19.75
Dublin	Fg	11.52	Southampton	C	21.75
Edinburgh	C	12.54	Southend	C	21.75
Exeter	F	21.70	Stornoway	S	19.75
Glasgow	F	15.59	York	C	19.75

## Air quality

### Yesterday's readings

London	Mod
S England	Mod
Wales	Mod
C England	Mod
N England	Good
Scotland	Good
N Ireland	Good

### Outlook for today

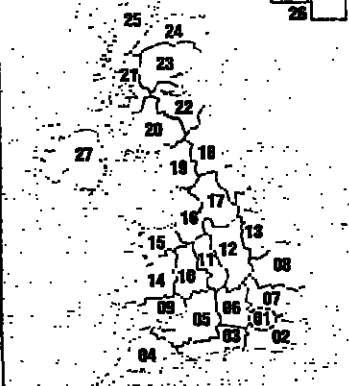
London	Mod
S England	Mod
Wales	Mod
C England	Mod
N England	Mod
Scotland	Mod
N Ireland	Good

## Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at normal rate of home landline.

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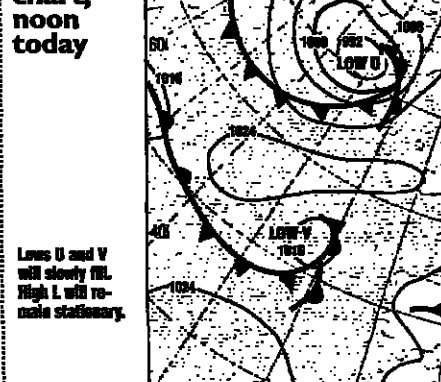
**World weather** most recent available figure at noon local time

Electric	C 10 53	Reamer Silver E 18 51	Household	C 22 87
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## Atlanta

### Altitude chart.



WILLIAM  
HARTSTON  
WEATHER  
WISE

WE HAVE been taken to task by a reader in the frozen north. Sue Couling writes: "Hottest day of the year? Why are you kidding? Yesterday [Monday] I was wearing jumpers and coat and needed to put the heating on! It poured with rain for most of the day. I live in York—only a few hours from London—but obviously far enough to be insignificant. *Weather Wise* failed to notice that a large proportion of the country were shivering on the 'hottest day of the year' ... It is plain

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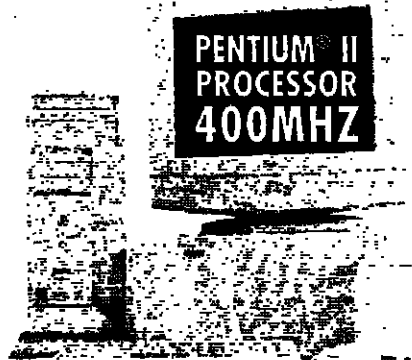
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World expert on medical ethics is condemned by doctors for saying that new-born children with severe disabilities should have their lives ended by lethal injection

# The man who would kill disabled babies

By Jeremy Laurence  
Health Editor

DOCTORS' leaders yesterday condemned an expert on medical ethics who called for babies with severe disabilities to be given lethal injections to end their lives.

Professor Peter Singer, deputy director of the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University in Australia, said that in cases where doctors and parents agreed that a

baby's disabilities were so overwhelming as to be incompatible with a decent quality of life, it would be kinder to end the baby's life deliberately rather than leave it to die.

"The standard practice is to withhold treatment such as antibiotics or in some cases feeding so the babies do die either from untreated infections or from starvation and dehydration," he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

"I think that is cruel and inhu-

mane. It causes unnecessary suffering to the infants and their families. Once you make a decision that it is better that the baby dies you ought to be able to make sure that it dies easily and swiftly. That means by giving it a lethal injection."

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health said that although there were cases in which it might be appropriate to withhold or withdraw treatment there was no justification for killing children.

Guidelines on when to withhold or withdraw treatment were issued by the college last year.

Professor Richard Cook, consultant neo-natologist and spokesman for the college, said: "What I feel about people who want to bump patients off is that they are doing it for themselves. It is very difficult for doctors faced with patients for whom they can do nothing surrounded by parents and nurses who are distressed. The eas-

iest thing is to bump them off. I don't think that is the right thing to do."

The guidelines specify five situations in which it may be right to withdraw treatment, if the doctors, nurses and parents agree. They include a child who is brain dead, a child who has no chance of survival and for whom treatment may prolong their suffering and one who may survive but who would be so impaired that treatment would in effect add to their suffering.

The British Medical Association said there was a key ethical distinction between killing and leaving a patient to die that lay at the heart of a doctor's duty to their patients. Dr Bill O'Neill, its science and ethics adviser, said: "There is a very important difference between withholding treatment and deliberately doing something to end a patient's life. Patients are not just left to die - all efforts are made to ensure they are comfortable and they do not suffer."

Professor Singer, who is in the UK to give a series of seminars, was challenged on the *Today* programme by Jacqueline Lang, a lawyer and author of *Human Lives*. She said: "We can eradicate suffering by eradicating the sufferer. It matters how we get good results. We cannot use any means to achieve an end, however good that end might be."

But he said he was "concerned for the needless suffering which exists now, as a result of current practice".

## The guru of animal rights ensnared in a moral maze

By Paul Valley

PETER SINGER looks weary. He is resigned to being called the professor who wants to kill babies. It is not what he came here to talk about. He is here to give series of lectures and seminars in London, Oxford and York on "Darwinism and Politics" and "Animals, Ethics and the Environment".

The trouble is that this philosophy professor does believe that disabled babies should, in certain circumstances, be given lethal injections and, if asked he is not disposed to deny it.

And he was asked about it yesterday, on Radio 4, after a tabloid diatribe had been launched almost as soon as he got off the plane from Australia where he is director of the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University. If doctors, parents and the legal system have concluded that a new-born baby is so brain-damaged that it should not be given treatment, or food, he said, then it would be kinder to administer a lethal injection to end the infant's suffering.

To make matters worse Professor Singer is the man who in 1976 wrote *Animal Liberation*, the seminal work which first popularised the idea of that animals have rights and gave birth to a worldwide movement of animal activism. So animals have rights, but disabled babies don't?

No wonder he looked weary.

"I don't want to run away from what I have written," he said when we met yesterday. "Let me explain. When I got involved in ethical issues I discovered that it is standard medical practice for doctors to make life-and-death decisions on whether new-born babies are considered fit to survive."

"These are cases where the child would have what one judge has called a 'demonstrably awful' life. One case was a Downs' Syndrome baby whose digestive system was blocked. In others there were decisions that spina bifida babies did not have to have the operation performed to relieve the pressure on the brain. But the result of implementing these decisions was the withholding treatment or food - which meant that the baby died slowly of complications, starvation or dehydration."

A lethal injection seems a more humane option, he said, to relieve the unnecessary suffering of the child, parents and healthcare staff.

There are two problems with this. It makes certain assumptions about the basis on which we value human life. And it takes for granted that there is no difference between killing someone and allowing them to die.

Utilitarian philosophers like Singer call the latter the "act/omission" fallacy. If an action, or an omission, produce the same effect they have the

same moral worth, they argue. "Actions are right or wrong according to their consequences," he said. "If the outcome or results of an act and an omission are the same they have the same moral value."

So neglecting to send food to a Sudanese refugee camp is morally equivalent to sending a warplane to strafe the occupants, because they die either way? "No, to send an aircraft

shows that you want them to die. To neglect to send food shows that you are indifferent."

But what if you are shooting them to save them a lingering death from starvation? "That's not very likely, but if that really was your motivation, then perhaps it would be acceptable," he replied.

Common sense tells us otherwise. There might be no difference in logic between action

and omission yet the idea of killing a disabled baby violates some deep taboo within us. We sense that actions are worse than omissions, rather like our sense that telling a lie is somehow worse than not telling the truth.

Because our moral sense on this is intuitive, I suggested, that does not mean it is muddled sentimentality or moral cowardice. "My guess is that our

intuition has developed over the centuries in which we have been taught ethics as a system of rules," Singer replied.

But those centuries of Judeo-Christian morality are over, he believes. "We have now entered a new era - [which he thinks began with the ruling to allowed doctors to stop feeding the Hillsborough victim Tony Bland] - one in which we look at the quality a human life may

have rather than talking about its sanctity."

Which brings us to the second problem with Singer's view. How, in this brave new world, are we to measure quality of life? By the ability to reason? By the ability to feel? By consciousness? That seems a good enough criteria, Singer replied. Isn't there anything about human life, and how we respond to it, which might be symbolic or sacramental?

No, says Singer, it is all about allowing everyone the maximum reign for their preferences and interests. People and animals too. In the end some animals might be more morally important than some human beings.

Such is the outcome of the utilitarian calculus. It is where, if we abandon the notion of absolute values, we will inevitably end up.



Peter Singer: "We have now entered a new era - one in which we look at the quality a human life may have rather than talking about its sanctity."

Photograph: David Rose

## Prince Philip angered at report of royal row over Emperor's award

By Diana Blamires

THE Duke of Edinburgh yesterday issued a strong denial that he spoke out against the Queen's decision to award Britain's highest order of chivalry to the Emperor of Japan.

The statement followed a story in yesterday's *Times* which claimed that the Duke had privately expressed reservations about the decision.

In a statement yesterday a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said: "The Duke has not expressed any view, privately or publicly, over the award of the Order of the Garter to the Emperor of Japan."

"He is well aware of the painful memories which the War caused to people, both from his own wartime experiences and from meeting veterans and ex-prisoners of war over the years since."

"For very many years, Prince Philip has worked for reconciliation and for a greater understanding between the two countries."

It is understood that the Duke has not ruled out making a complaint over the report to the Press Complaints Commission.

Survivors of Japanese prisoner of war camps yesterday condemned the decision to confer the award on the Emperor

of Japan. Members of a former civilian internees group met in central London to condemn the award of the Order of the Garter to Emperor Akihito. They also demanded an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister before the Emperor's visit to Britain later this month.

The campaigners want a "meaningful apology" and compensation from the Japanese government for their suffering during the Second World War. The outcry came after the Duke of Edinburgh's denial.

The Japanese head of state will receive the award on his visit, which begins on 26 May.

Keith Martin, chairman of the Association of British Civil-



Emperor Akihito: award has angered POW groups

ian Internees - Far East Region, said yesterday: "I think the Garter is an order too far."

"It seems an insensitive thing to do. Here is an order that was given to people like Winston Churchill, Montgomery and other great British leaders. What has the Emperor done that is chivalrous?"

## Rival fails to stop British Airways launching its 'no-frills' airline

By Michael Harrison

BRITISH AIRWAYS was yesterday cleared to launch its no-frills European airline "Go" next week after the rival low-cost carrier easyJet failed in a High Court challenge.

Mr Justice Rix refused to grant easyJet an injunction which would have effectively stopped the launch of Go on the grounds that it was being illegally subsidised by the parent airline BA. But the judge turned down BA's bid to "strike out" a pending action by easyJet, which operates out of Luton airport, claiming that Go will be in breach of European Union competition laws.

The ruling means that, although Go can start flying its 143-seat Boeing 737s a week tomorrow with introductory return fares of £100 to Rome, Milan and Copenhagen, it will still be open to challenge when easyJet's action comes to trial.

Barbara Cassini, the American chief executive of Go, said she was delighted by the ruling but disappointed the action had not been struck out. "This allows us to get on with the launch of the company without restrictions on where we can fly and how we can develop the business."

Go is expected to announce at least one further route in the next four weeks. The easyJet ac-

tion, meanwhile, is expected to take six to 18 months to reach court. easyJet's injunction claim was based on the allegation that BA, with its "bottomless pit" of funds, having guaranteed Go's leases on the eight aircraft it planned to fly, gave Go an unfair advantage over smaller competitors.

But the judge said to grant an injunction would be pointless. It would not stop the new operation and would serve only to cause considerable disruption. Go has advance bookings from 30,000 passengers.

In any event, the judge added, Go had not so far announced any plans to fly on easyJet's routes. There was

nothing for easyJet to complain about, apart from a future threat of unfair competition.

Refusing to block easyJet's claim completely, the judge said the company did have an arguable case that BA was abusing its dominant position in Europe to the potential detriment of undistorted competition within the EU.

easyJet - pioneers in the no-frills market which now includes Virgin, Debonair and Ryanair - accuses BA of "predatory behaviour" and failing to give "transparent" assurances or publish financial statements from which the amount of any subsidy to Go could be deduced.

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Report calls for action to help bereaved and injured while Blair listens to couple caught in bombing

# 'Minister for victims' appointed to ease Uster pain

By David McKittrick  
Ireland Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced the appointment of a "minister for victims" as part of a new package of measures aimed at helping those bereaved and injured in the Northern Ireland troubles.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, promised to consider sympathetically a series of recommendations in a report on victims drawn up by a former senior civil servant. In the Commons, Tony Blair declared: "The victims of violence have suffered enormously. We do not forget their suffering."

Last October, Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, a former head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, was asked by the Government to look at possible ways of recognising the pain and suffering felt by victims of violence.

The question has since become highly politically charged, since it is generally viewed as an issue emphasised in particular by Unionist politicians. At this moment, the Government is particularly concerned with assuaging Unionist concerns in the hope of encouraging a big Yes vote in the referendums on 22 May.

This was seen as helping explain the speedy decision to designate Adam Ingram, who is Northern Ireland security minister, as "minister for victims".

The normally reserved Sir Kenneth, who was himself the subject of an IRA attack, was clearly moved by the experience of meeting many bereaved and disabled people in recent months. Describing the work as harrowing, he said in his report: "In more than 45 years of public service, I have never been asked to undertake a task of such human sensitivity. The letters I have read and the stories I have heard will be burned into my memory for ever."

The work was, he said, a painful privilege: "Painful, because I have encountered grief and human suffering on an enormous scale. A privilege, because I have encountered also such courage, such endurance and - often from those most gravely affected - such generosity of spirit."

Among his recommendations were a review of compensation arrangements, the provision of advice on victim support, improved pain relief services and increased sensitivity from employers towards victims. He called on paramilitary organisations to reveal the sites of the graves of missing victims.

He also suggested considering an annual day of memorial and reconciliation and, at a later stage, a Northern Ireland memorial, which he said might consist of "a beautiful and useful building within a peaceful and harmonious garden".

The Rev Ian Paisley welcomed the report but said that it had been undermined by the Government's decision "to throw open the prison gates so that the terrorist murderers responsible for the pain and suffering are allowed to go free".

Welcoming the report, Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble said: "I feel that in the present circumstances so much attention has wrongly been focused on the perpetrators. That has to be balanced by a greater concern for those who have suffered and those who have served."

In Dublin, the report was welcomed by the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, who commented: "It is clear from the report that many victims of violence feel isolated and ignored. On behalf of successive Irish governments, I acknowledge that this feeling is shared by victims in our jurisdiction. The government will consider what further steps should be taken to address their particular needs."



Police preventing Jim Dixon handing a letter to Tony Blair in Belfast earlier this month

Photograph: Alan Lewis

## 'We waited 30 years to tell a prime minister what the people have suffered'

By Kim Sengupta

JIM and Anna Dixon said they had waited 30 years for a prime minister to listen to them. Tony Blair did, and then wrote to them saying how the harrowing story of the injuries Mr Dixon suffered at the Enniskillen bombing played a part in his decision to offer extra help to victims of violence in Northern Ireland.

More than 3,600 people have died and 40,000 injured in the current round of troubles. Groups representing them welcomed the report by Sir Kenneth Bloomfield calling for a raft of measures to help those affected. It also helped to assuage a feeling among some that more

was being done for prisoners and their families than the victims.

Mr and Mrs Dixon were stopped by officials and Royal Ulster Constabulary officers when they attempted to hand a letter to Mr Blair during his recent visit to Ulster. When the Prime Minister heard about this he broke off from his engagements and invited them to speak to him personally.

Mrs Dixon recalled: "After he had talked to us for about 10 to 12 minutes he said he was being pressed to get on with his schedule. I said we have waited 30 years to speak to a prime minister about what people have been going through here, and could he not spare us a little more

time? He left but said he would come back."

Mr Blair did return and the next day Downing Street announced around £2m in extra cash for victims of violence, and set the stage for the comprehensive aid package of the Bloomfield report.

Mr Dixon, 61, was taking photos of his daughter Serena, the headgirl of the local high school, at Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday 1987 when a bomb exploded, causing him terrible injuries. "My skull apparently shattered like an eggshell, the roof of my mouth was blown, my eye sockets disintegrated, and there were many other injuries," he said.

He has been to hospitals "28 to 30 times", and has to go back once more for an operation which will enable him to close his eyes. Mrs Dixon was blown off her feet by the blast and received cuts and bruises. Serena was saved by the person next to her shielding her with his body.

Mr Dixon, who runs a nursing home with his wife, said: "It was a surprise to receive the letter from Mr Blair, but it shows he was listening to us. When we met he was very sympathetic to our views, that he must listen to what the people who have suffered because of the violence, the ordinary people, were saying. Catholics as well as Protestants, and not to the officials."

## Britain to import American blood plasma products

BRITAIN will have to spend up to £70m annually importing blood plasma products from the United States, because of the risk of transmitting "human BSE" through UK-source blood products, following a government decision yesterday.

The measure, which begins in a few months, will significantly raise the costs of the National Blood Service from its present £200m annual budget. It comes after a three-month review by the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) on the risk that "new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease" (v-CJD), caused by the BSE infective agent, could be passed in plasma.

Instead, more than 300 tonnes of plasma will have to be imported from the US, at a cost of £20m. The MSF trade union, which represents blood service staff, said that the cost of extra precautions needed to filter donated blood in future would amount to about £50m.

The CSM decided that "although there is currently no evidence that v-CJD can be transmitted by blood, there is nevertheless a theoretical risk".

## £10,000 animal rights award

A 53-year-old woman will be awarded £10,000 damages today by Kent police in the latest payout against animal rights demonstrators arrested while trying to stop live exports to Europe. Angela Petro is being paid the money plus legal expenses after claiming officers unlawfully arrested and imprisoned her, on three occasions, stripped searched her, and damaged her wrists.

David Phillips, the Chief Constable of Kent, has denied the allegations but agreed to the award. The police face at least a further dozen claims for damage, having already paid small sums of £900 to £2,500 to at least three animal welfare protesters.

- Jason Bennett

## Probe into murder inquiry

A POLICE chief called in an outside force to investigate the handling of an inquiry in the murder of a 15-year-old Celtic hopeful after his killer was jailed for life yesterday. Brian Beattie, 33, was found guilty of murdering Lawrence Haggart in the victim's home in March 1996.

Central Police's chief constable William Wilson said he had invited James Mackay, assistant chief constable of Thyside Police, to undertake a review of how the inquiry was handled.

The dead boy's father, Larry, yesterday attacked the force because he said Lawrence's brother Dennis, then 12, was a suspect in the first investigation.

## Harassment charge

A FATHER-OF-TWO who warned people in a Welsh village about a convicted child sex offender living in the community has been charged with harassment under new laws designed to stop stalkers. Darren Lavery, 30, who distributed 400 leaflets warning that the man was living in a house in the village, was charged earlier this week after being stopped by police.

Mr Lavery said yesterday: "The families were so shocked they did not know what to do and asked me for advice. We all thought that that particular village needed to be aware of what was happening and I wanted to alert people to the dangers."

## Gay-bashers targeted

TOUGHER sentences for people convicted of violent attacks on gays and lesbians are being proposed in an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill, now going through the Commons. Richard Allan, Liberal Democrat MP for Sheffield Hallam, is proposing a new clause modelled on the Government's existing proposals for race hate attacks.

## Air pollution warning

THE current warm spell will bring the first summer smog with "high" levels of air pollution due to bit many areas of England and Wales over the next few days, the Government warned yesterday. Traffic fumes trapped in warm, still air in city centres will make the problem worse and high ozone levels are forecast.

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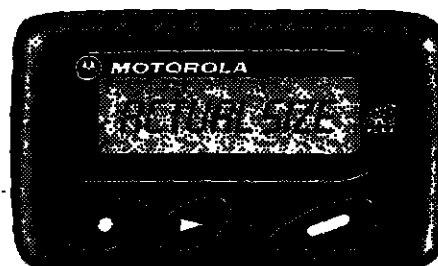
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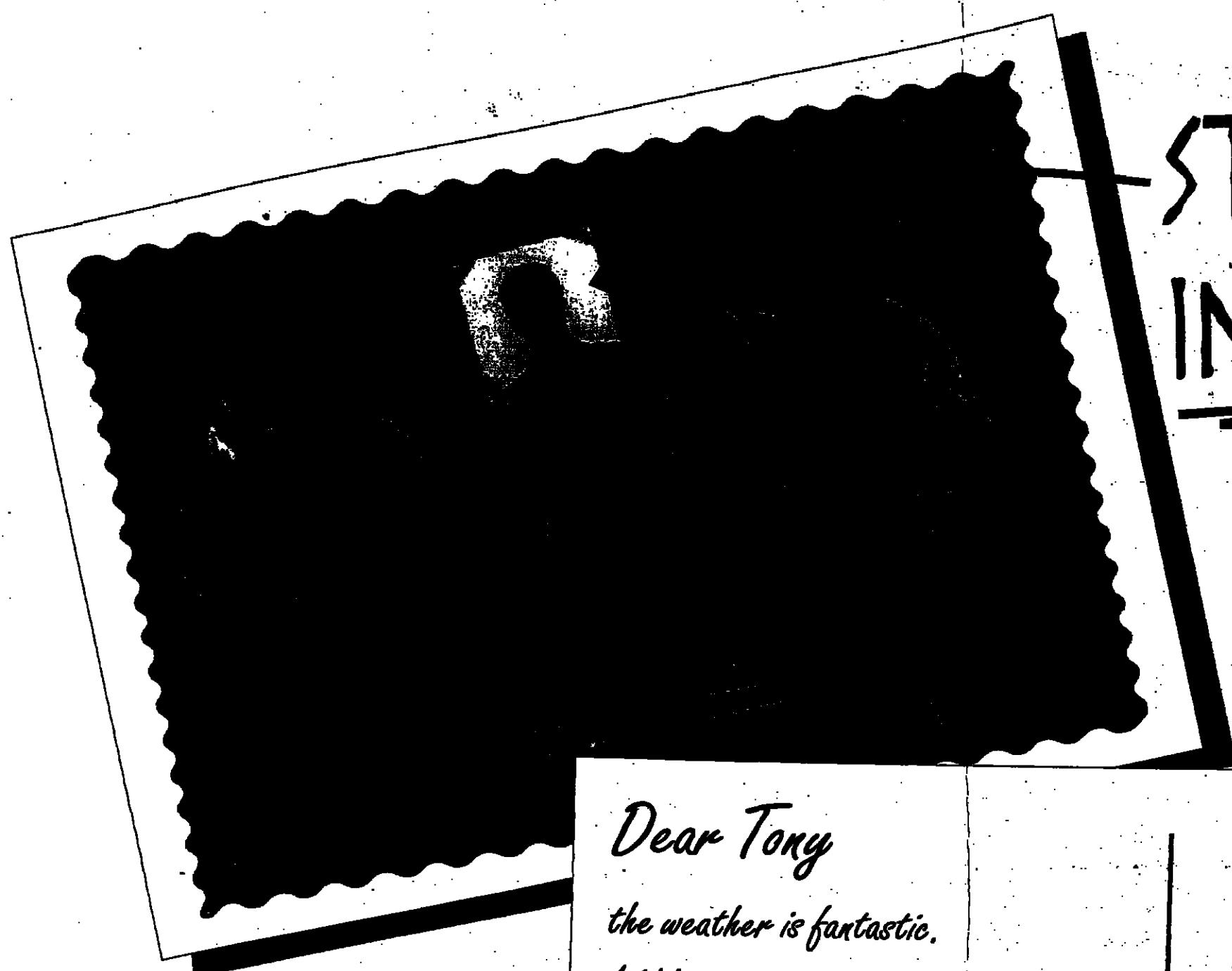
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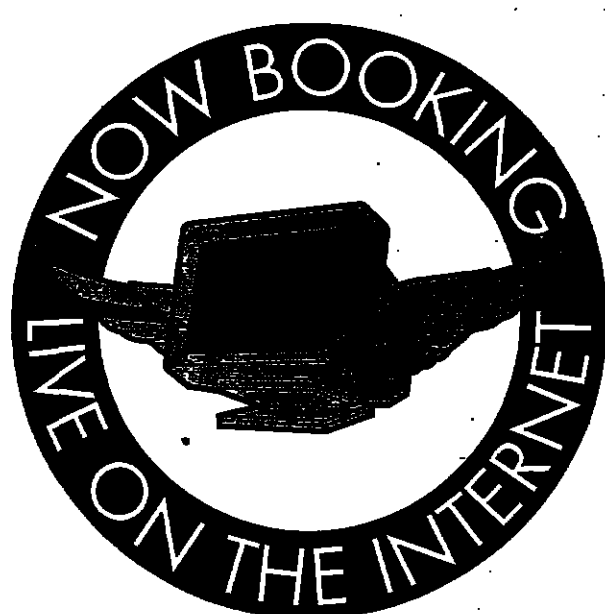
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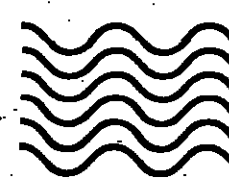
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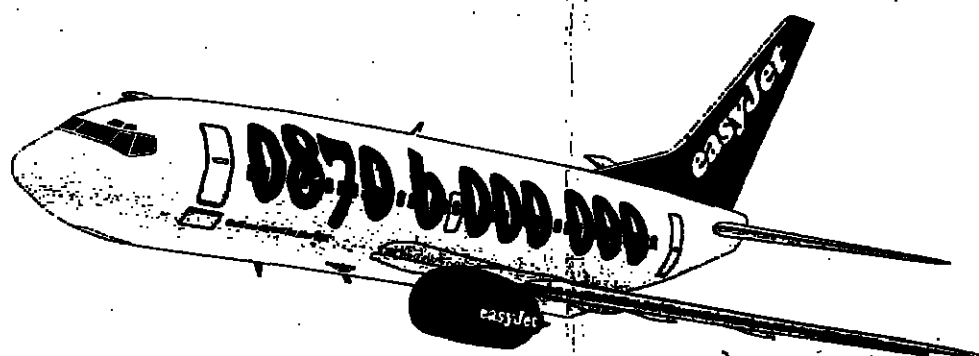
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# Birth pioneer cleared of misconduct charge

By Glenda Cooper  
Social Affairs Correspondent

AN EXPERT on foetal medicine was yesterday cleared of serious professional misconduct by the General Medical Council.

He had been accused of making flippant and offensive remarks to a woman patient whose unborn twins died in an operation he carried out.

But Professor Kyriacos Nicolaides told the GMC that he was in tears after the babies' death which he called a "human tragedy" for both their mother Jennifer Sabin and for himself.

Speaking after the hearing, Professor Nicolaides said: "I am immensely relieved that my name has been cleared of these charges. I am deeply saddened by the fact that I was not able to save the babies of Mrs Sabin."

Mrs Sabin was undergoing keyhole laser surgery for the rare and usually fatal "twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome", a procedure developed by Professor Nicolaides and carried out by him 117 times. The syndrome occurs when the blood vessels in the placenta deliver too much to one twin while the other receives not enough.

Mrs Sabin had alleged that the professor made jokes about her knickers, made disparaging remarks about Newcastle and made sexual comments to the friend who accompanied her. She also alleged that he shouted "your babies are dying" during the operation and swore.

But the professor told the GMC's professional conduct committee that his only concern had been the well-being of his patient and her children, and that his comments had been an attempt to put her at her ease.

Mrs Sabin from Morpeth, Northumberland, told the GMC on Tuesday that when she asked for painkillers Professor Nicolaides joked with a group of student doctors observing the operation, saying: "These are the women from Newcastle, they cook their men their dinner, then go out and get drunk, then they come back and beat the women and they have sex with them, and she wants painkillers."

Professor Nicolaides admitted making comments along these lines, saying that experience had taught him that it was



Jennifer Sabin (right) and her friend Helen Potts, who were deeply upset by Professor Nicolaides' approach

often useful to be "provocative" to calm patients' nerves and relax them.

He denied that the comments were directed at the group of students or that they had been made in response to a request for painkillers.

Professor Nicolaides accepted Mrs Sabin's allegation that he had put an arm round her friend Helen Potts, who had come with her to the hospital to offer support, but denied that this was a sexual overture. He said: "I put my arm around her not for comforting her, but as a gesture of welcome."

He agreed that he had greeted Mrs Sabin and Mrs Potts as "the beautiful women of Newcastle", but again denied that this was a sexual approach.

The doctor, who has won a world-wide reputation with his pioneering work on foetal surgery at King's College Hospital, south London, said he tried to involve patients fully in every stage of their treatment and that this was why he told Mrs Sabin, after she began to haemorrhage that her babies were dying.

Dr Neil Sebire, who assisted with the operation, said that the professor made a point of encouraging an informal atmosphere at the hospital's Harris Birthright Centre, which he had set up to treat women experiencing difficult pregnancies. He told the hearing: "It is a unique unit in that a large pro-

portion of the patients have foetal abnormalities.

"Almost by definition, every single patient in the unit is traumatised. You are telling them potentially the worst news of their lives. Part of the rationale of the unit is at least to get patients relaxed."

He denied that Professor Nicolaides - who managed the pregnancy of Mandy Allwood, the West Midlands woman who conceived octuplets after fertility treatment but miscarried in October 1996 - had been "playing to the audience" during the operation on Mrs Sabin.

Dr Sebire said: "He always comes in and speaks to the patients. His policy is much stricter than in any other department I have worked in, in that you are under no circumstances allowed to ask him any question while the patient is in the room. He will not let any doctors ask him any questions."

After the hearing, Professor Nicolaides said: "I'm very grateful for the patience and support of my colleagues and very pleased that I will be able to continue to work with my patients, who I have devoted all my life to."



Professor Nicolaides: 'Immensely relieved that my name has been cleared, but saddened that I was unable to save the babies'

## Firms risk penalties for 'bug' deaths

By Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

COMPANIES could face prosecution for deaths and injuries caused by a failure to get to grips with the "millennium bug".

The Health and Safety Executive yesterday warned that while it was still attempting to persuade organisations to tackle potentially dangerous problems associated with the millennium, it would "lose patience" by the start of next year.

Clive Norris, director of safety policy at the executive, said that he was "concerned rather than alarmed" by the number of organisations - largely among the 3.7 million small and medium-sized firms - which had not come to terms with the bug.

Mr Norris said that the HSE would begin using "enforcement notices" to make sure businesses assessed all possible risks and would issue orders closing down processes if necessary. The ultimate penalty for flouting advice in dangerous circumstances would be legal action leading to fines of hundreds of thousands of pounds and, in extreme cases, imprisonment.

The executive pointed out that computers can confuse many of the dates around the millennium with an instruction to close down. This could have a potentially disastrous impact on the nuclear, oil and chemical industries or any other sector involved in hazardous processes.

The HSE has targeted companies involved in such activities, but believes that the organisations have already taken the necessary measures. The potential problem is that smaller sub-contractors are involved in the installation and

maintenance of plants and may not be fully responsive to safeguards introduced by the big companies.

Launching a guidance pamphlet "Health and Safety and the Year 2000 Problem", the HSE warned about so-called "embedded chips" in systems - which might be integral to processes but could escape inspection.

Smaller companies are also involved in providing fire and security alarms which could be vulnerable to the millennium bug. Such equipment could fail to activate or could register false alarms. Lift companies might also fail to undertake maintenance because electronic systems often control the frequency of inspections.

The executive reiterated its advice that computer problems could occur on a number of dates around 2000, because the combination of digits could be misinterpreted. Difficulties could occur on 1 January and 9 September next year and in 2000 on 1 January, 29 February, 1 March and 31 December. There could also be a problem on 1 January 2001.

Mr Norris said that time was running out for businesses to assess potential difficulties. "Those that find they do have a problem need to set about tackling it too - and the sooner the better."

He pointed out that there were only 150 working days before computers encountered difficulties.

"Doing nothing is not an option. At the very least you should identify whether you have a problem or not," he said.

Mr Norris argued that the kills required to deal with the millennium bug were in heavy demand. "They will be scarcer and more expensive, the longer you delay."

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# Dorrell broke rules by failing to declare interest

By Anthony Bevis  
Political Editor

THE whip-hand over what Conservative frontbenchers can and cannot do in the Commons was handed to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, yesterday.

Sir Gordon said in a report that Stephen Dorrell, the Tory spokesman on Education and Employment, broke a Commons rule by initiating a debate on trade union recognition last month – because he is a director of a clothing firm that does not recognise trade unions.

He said Mr Dorrell's action was a breach of the post-Nolan advocacy rule, barring MPs from initiating a debate or question with a specific and direct impact on their private interests.

The all-party Committee on Standards and Privileges took the rare step of disagreeing with Sir Gordon, and cleared the former Secretary of State for Health of any misconduct.

But it then added a ruling that will shock the Tory benches, where so many outside business interests are concentrated.

"A case which falls very close to the borderline should serve as a reminder to all Members who may have occasion to initiate parliamentary proceedings, that they should be cautious in doing so on matters which touch their registrable interests, and should first seek the advice of the Commissioner or the Registrar of members' interests."

They also ruled that Mr Dorrell should have declared his interest in the April debate.

The idea of Conservative frontbenchers being forced to clear their actions with an official before they are allowed to make a political move will dismay old hands in the Commons.

But the unanimous Standards and Privileges Committee decision to reverse Sir Gordon's ruling could also be read as a retreat from the standards introduced after Lord Nolan's 1995 parliamentary sleaze report.

Dennis MacShane, the Labour MP who laid the complaint against Mr Dorrell, said yesterday, however, that William Hague had to decide whether he wanted a full-time opposition or "a part-time frontbench who will be constantly embarrassed as

they decide whether it is more important to have nice little earners outside Parliament, which they will always have to declare when attacking the Government."

He released a list of 19 Conservative frontbenchers who had financial interests in firms which could have an impact on debates and questions they could be expected to raise in the House.

"From corner shops to energy prices, from property development to Asda, from insurance firms to private medicine, Mr Hague's team have their noses stuck deep in the extra-parliamentary trough."

"Hague has to clean up the Tory frontbench because more and more of them will be exposed when they initiate debates in the Commons."

Mr MacShane, who has already forced Mr Hague to switch Michael Fallon from his Trade and Industry team to the Treasury team after he neglected to declare an interest in the House on low-wage nursing homes, said he would be watching to make sure that Tory frontbenchers submitted themselves to Sir Gordon's prior restraint on their actions.



Prince Charles pots a red during a visit to The Arches after-school club, which helps troubled children return to education. Photograph: Arthur Edwards

## Blunkett praises 'quiet redistribution' of wealth

By Judith Judd  
and Clare Garner

A NATIONAL consensus including both rich and poor is the only way to tackle disadvantage, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education said yesterday.

In a lecture on social exclusion in Southwark Cathedral, south London, Mr Blunkett said that the Government had to persuade the middle classes that the whole of society benefited if the lot of the poorest improved.

He spoke forcefully of the

ways in which the Government is bringing about the redistribution of wealth – a subject that New Labour has sometimes shied away from.

As a result of the Budget, the poorest half of the country would have more to spend – that was "quiet redistribution". Redistribution would also come when the Government's plans for the minimum wage were implemented.

Mr Blunkett rejected the notion that there was "some sort of battleground between

the worst off and the best off".

Children at The Arches, an after-school club in nearby Camberwell, where more than half the children and adolescents arrive having been expelled from school, would benefit from redistribution.

Many have a history of gang activity and 68 per cent have been arrested by the police. These are the truants who the Government promises to do something about.

After spending time at The

Arches, their attitudes change. Every member returns to education, many with ambitions to become barristers, artists or accountants.

The options at The Arches are indeed many, as Prince Charles found out when he paid a visit yesterday afternoon. Besides the activities – art, music, sport, drama – there are counsellors on site and special needs teachers who can help with schoolwork. There is a pool table too, where the Prince of Wales potted a red.

## Political donations a 'bonus' for honours candidates

By Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

DONATIONS to political parties should be regarded as a "bonus" rather than a "minus" when honours are being handed out, the head of the committee which scrutinises the awards said yesterday.

Lord Pym, a former Conservative Cabinet minister, said the fact that someone had given money proved their commitment.

He told the Neill committee on political funding that other achievements were also important in deciding who should receive political honours. While political donations were a fac-

tor they were not the only one, he stressed.

The Political Honours Scrutiny Committee considers honours awarded for political services, which account for about 50 of the 1,000 handed out each year.

"If someone gives their money to a party, that is a bonus rather than a minus because they are supporting what they believe in with their own money. I would regard it as a plus rather than a minus point that people put their money where their mouth is," he said.

He confirmed that his committee had turned down candidates for honours, but he did not believe that people had

ever been put forward for political honours solely on the grounds of political donations.

There was speculation that the scrutiny committee might never have been told the names of donors to Labour's blind trusts after the party's fundraiser, Lord Levy, told the committee he did not pass on that information. However, a party spokesman said later that the chief whip, Nick Brown, had passed the names to the committee.

Lord Levy said he believed the blind trusts should be wound up but defended their use before the last election. They had been effective in keeping donors' names secret from beneficiaries, he said.

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Greenpeace campaigners stop Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square yesterday to protest against the destruction of the Great Bear rainforest on the west coast of Canada. The protest was timed to coincide with a visit by the Queen to celebrate the reopening after refurbishment of nearby Canada House. Photograph: David Sandison

## Rape claim woman 'did not lie to police'

A WOMAN who alleged that she was raped by a cousin of mass killer Fred West when she was 15 denied yesterday that she was lying to share in the "glamour" of the Cromwell Street inquiry.

The woman, now in her 30s, told a jury that the man, William John Hill, raped her in an upstairs bedroom of his village home in the late 1970s.

She and another woman gave accounts of how they were allegedly raped as schoolgirls by Mr Hill, 45, of Near Green Close, near Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester. He denies their claims, and two other alleged rapes of teenage visitors.

The woman, now in her 30s, told the jury at Birmingham Crown Court that Mr Hill attacked them when they separately visited his home in the village of Much Marcle. They al-

leged that he also indecently assaulted them in a garden shed. One said she was raped five or six times, aged 13 and 14, when out for drives in his three-wheel Robin Reliant car.

The other alleged victim said she was raped once - when a 15-year-old virgin - in a bedroom at Mr Hill's home. She insisted she had not made up a statement to Cromwell Street inquiry officers in September 1995 when she claimed to have seen Fred West at his Gloucester home.

She denied making up the claims because she wanted "to jump on the bandwagon" after bodies were discovered in Much Marcle and in Gloucester. She also denied lying to get money from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for the abuse she allegedly suffered.

The trial continues today.

## Academics stand firm over 'illegal' pictures

By Ben Russell  
Education Correspondent

ACADEMICS condemned the police last night for seizing pictures by controversial photographer Robert Mapplethorpe from a university library, and warned of a creeping erosion of freedom of speech.

The Association of University Teachers (AUT), meeting in Worthing this week, called for action to back the University of Central England which could face prosecution over pictures in one of the late photographer's books, deemed offensive and illegal.

The university's vice chancellor, Dr Peter Knight, has refused to destroy two pictures from the book and challenged the West Midlands Police to take the case to court. The

Crown Prosecution Service is considering whether to go ahead with a prosecution under the Obscene Publications Act after a darkroom worker called police while developing pictures from the book for a student's thesis.

Last night York University academic Joanna de Groot, a member of the union's national executive, said study of material like the Mapplethorpe pictures was "the stuff of universities" and praised Dr Knight's stand.

The AUT general secretary David Treisman told delegates: "A culture of intervention of all kinds in what universities do, a culture of disregard for academic freedom is significant enough for the police to believe it is absolutely normal to consider asking a university to burn books."

# Impotence pill 'can damage men's eyes'

By Glenda Cooper  
Social Affairs Correspondent

VIAGRA, the new drug for impotence can cause damage to eyesight for those who over-use it, scientists have claimed.

In sufficient doses it could cause damage to the retina of the eye, the *New Scientist* magazine reports today.

The erection pill has taken America by storm. Less than three weeks after its launch, doctors in the United States had written an unprecedented 113,000 prescriptions for Viagra.

The pill even received an endorsement from the former presidential candidate Bob Dole, and the drug looks set to have the same effect in Britain.

But it is known to have a side-effect that causes "blue vision" and some eye experts fear that Viagra may do more than that, even in sufficient

doses damaging the retina. Viagra works by inhibiting an enzyme called phosphodiesterase, which allows more blood to flow into the penis.

A similar enzyme exists in the cone cells responsible for colour vision in the retina. It is the effect on this enzyme that leads to a perception of the colour blue, and which is concerning eye specialists.

The drug is thought to mimic a condition where levels of phosphodiesterase are abnormal.

"This has ophthalmologists worried, because people with congenitally abnormal phosphodiesterase suffer irreversible damage to their retinas over time," said the report in the *New Scientist*.

The American Academy of Ophthalmologists is now pressing Pfizer, the drug company which manufactures Viagra, to

conduct more studies. Michael Marmor, an eye specialist at Stanford University in California, told the magazine: "The company has not measured the electrical activity of the cone cells in the long term."

But Pfizer said that rigorous tests at doses well above the recommended level had shown no clinically significant effect on vision in either the short term, or the long term.

There are also already fears that some men wanting to reclaim youthful vigour are taking higher than recommended doses despite their doctors' warnings.

In the clinical trials which convinced the American Food and Drug Administration to approve Viagra, the "magic bullet" drug quadrupled men's success at having sexual intercourse and significantly improved the quality of their

erections. In one study, men receiving 100 milligrams of Viagra, the highest recommended dose, doubled their frequency of erections.

But one sexual health expert told *New Scientist* that the reality of Viagra's performance did not match the hype.

However, James Barada, of the Center for Male Sexual Health in Albany, New York, said that many of the men in the trials had achieved intercourse in the previous three months and so were not clinically impotent. He claimed that only one-third of men who were genuinely impotent, were able to have intercourse after taking the drug.

Mr Barada, who has written more than 150 prescriptions for Viagra, said: "I consider them Viagra failures. You don't take a drug just because it helps a little bit."

# Women protest as US men get Viagra on medical insurance

THREE weeks after the little blue pill went on to the market, it emerges that men in United States who have obtained the impotence drug on prescription have a 50:50 chance of persuading their health insurance company to pay for it. Women, on the other hand, who are prescribed the contraceptive Pill, must usually pay for it themselves.

This has been seized on by women's groups as a discrepancy amounting to sexual discrimination. If insurance companies pay for men's Viagra, why not the Pill for women? Their irritation is all the greater because of proliferating reports that doctors are prescribing Viagra not just for clinical impotence, but for what is euphemistically called "enhancement".

One doctors' group, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, which has a larger proportion of female members than most US medical organisations, is now lobbying Congress to pass legislation requiring insurers who pay for prescription drugs as a matter of course, also to cover the Pill. Insurance companies, the group's spokesman said, were demonstrating "a clear bias".

The insurance companies offer two arguments: cost and need. The costs, they say, are not comparable: the contraceptive pill is used by millions of women for decades at a time, while the current rate of Viagra prescriptions is running at 300,000 a week. Insurance companies are

also limiting the number of Viagra pills they will pay for, to between four and 10 a month. Even with the Pill costing between \$20-30 (£12.50-18.75) a month, and Viagra costing between 10 and 12 dollars per tablet, the total cost to the insurance company of covering the Pill will be far more than covering Viagra. The College of Obstetricians responds by citing the costs of unwanted pregnancies.

The insurance companies also argue that impotence is a clinical condition, while the decision to use contraception is elective - an argument which has the full sympathy of the anti-abortion lobby.

The apparent discrepancy in the treatment of men and women also derives, in part, from the US health system, which is mostly private and employer-linked and regulated differently from state to state. Many insurance companies say they offer plans that cover all prescription drugs, including the Pill, but most companies do not select them on grounds of cost. This is an "employer decision", said a spokesman for the Health Insurance Association of America, not an "insurer decision". Six states mandate some reimbursement of contraception costs, but nine out of ten US women with insurance must pay.

The incipient women's revolt over Viagra could prompt a reassessment of contraceptive cover. But the likely result will be higher premiums for all.

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# Women's jail where suicide has claimed seven lives

By Ian Burrell  
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE SUICIDES of seven young women in a Scottish prison have prompted the Government to undertake wide-ranging reform of the treatment of female inmates north of the border.

Henry McLeish, the Scottish home affairs minister, yesterday promised to take steps to minimise the number of women sent to jail. He pledged to halve the female prison population within two years. Mr McLeish

was forced to act after the publication of a critical report by Scotland's chief inspectors of prisons and social work, who were called in to investigate after seven women took their lives over a two-year period at Scotland's only all-female prison, Cornton Vale. Two of the victims were 17 years old.

Among the findings in the report was that well over a third of all women in custody in Scotland have attempted to take their own lives at some stage, usually outside prison, and 82 per cent had experienced

"some form of abuse" during their lives.

Cornton Vale is a modern jail on the outskirts of Stirling, opened in 1975 as Scotland's first purpose-built prison for

women. Although it was designed to create a "relaxed atmosphere", prison reform groups said yesterday that it had instead acquired a reputation as a "suicide jail".

Scotland's chief inspector of prisons, Clive Fairweather, called for more television sets in cells at the prison to reduce the potential for "morbid contemplation". Televisions in cells

have been described by American experts as "the best babysitter ever", he noted.

Mr Fairweather pointed out that less than 1 per cent of the 200-strong Scottish female pris-

oner population were violent offenders and most were being punished for "petty nuisance".

Yesterday, Clare Sparks, of the Prison Reform Trust, said that many of the problems identified in Scotland were also being experienced by female prisoners in England and Wales who were often starved of purposeful activity. "There is a major problem with self-harm," she said. "We are constantly hearing that women are bored and don't have anything to do."

She said that the female prison population in England and Wales had doubled in the past five years and at more than 3,000 was at its highest level since 1905.

The Scottish report calls for facilities to be opened up for women prisoners at Inverness and Dumfries jails, which are predominantly for male prisoners, and for more to be done to reduce the number of women sent to prison for non-payment of fines.

Scotland's chief inspector of prisons is calling for the provision of more television sets in cells at Cornton Vale to reduce the potential for 'morbid contemplation'. Photograph: Chris Watt

The inspectors called for the creation of a powerful group to resolve at local level the issues identified in the report, including prosecutors, police, the prison and health services, and voluntary bodies.

They also recommended that Cornton Vale be reshaped with more shared accommodation for inmates.

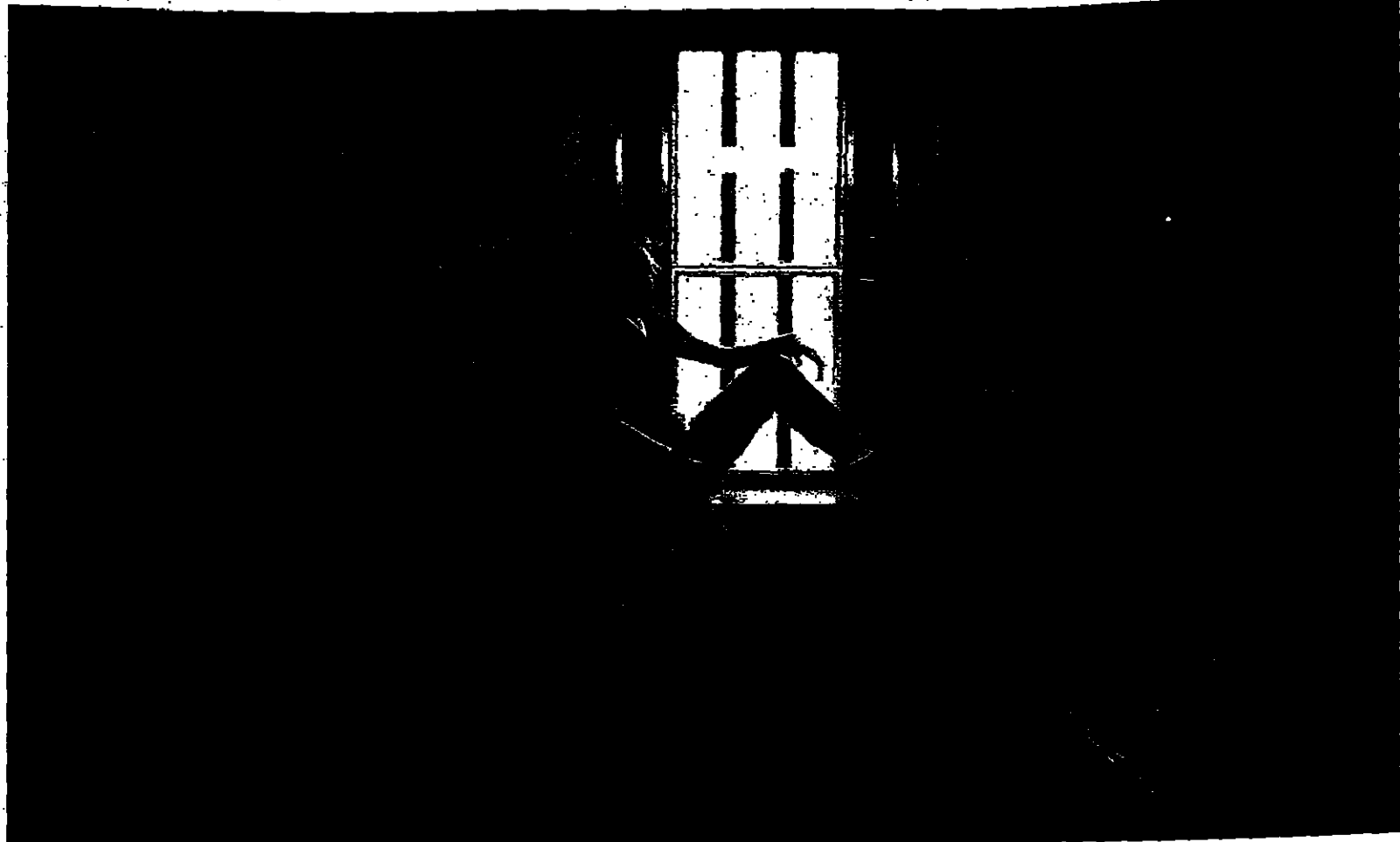
After one of the longest inquiries in Scottish legal history last year, a sheriff concluded that no one was to blame for the six suicides he studied, and he ruled that no "reasonable" precaution could have been taken to prevent the deaths.

Almost 90 per cent of inmates at Cornton Vale have taken on drugs, including many of those who committed suicide. Chris Tchaikovsky, director of the London-based trust Women in Prison, said yesterday that more young female inmates would take their own lives unless they were given access to drug rehabilitation units.

Mr McLeish promised a positive response to the report which he described as a "watershed" for the criminal justice system in Scotland.

He said: "For the first time we have a distinctive focus on the position of women in the criminal justice system and the Government is absolutely committed to using this heightened awareness to match policy need."

But he said no decision would be taken on the report's recommendation to end the practice of jailing women under 18 before the completion of a major study into young offenders in Scotland which is exploring how the jailing of boys and girls under the age of 17 can be minimised.



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### DAILY POEM

On Warhol's 'Tunafish Disaster' and 'Red Elvis'

By John Kinsella

Did a leak kill Mrs Brown? Did a leak  
kill Mrs McCarthy? Did Elvis chill

out when faced with their cool bodies, eyelids  
drooping, while he, with blurred vision could see

with thirty-six sets of eyes, still lusting  
after the days when lithium was a

tasty table salt? Or when Dick Nixon  
relied on him to set the kids straight and

the FBI struck a deal to make all  
pink cadillacs bleed like tuna: trusted

icons of supermarkets, suspended  
in seas of air conditioning? Elvis

gently sings the victims in their long sleep,  
his red hair as slick as publicity.

This week's poems celebrate the work of John Kinsella, who was born in Perth, Western Australia, in 1963, and mark the simultaneous publication of his *Poems 1980-1994* (Bloodaxe, £9.95) and his new volume, *The Hunt* (Bloodaxe, £7.95). This poem first appeared in *Full Fathom Five* (1993).

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## Channel 5 chief attacks BBC's defensive culture

By Janine Gibson  
Media Correspondent

THE chief executive of Channel 5, David Elstein, launched a blistering attack on the BBC last night – on the eve of recording a radio programme in which he will propose himself as its next director-general.

On delivering the Goldman Media Lecture, Mr Elstein described the BBC as “mesmerised by impossible and inappropriate ambitions” and “mired in its peculiar history and method of funding”.

He also proposed the abolition of the licence fee, calling instead for a subscription system which, he said, would “strengthen and further legitimise” the BBC.

But Mr Elstein will today record an edition of Radio 4's *The Candidate* in which he will be interviewed by Jonathan Dimbleby about how he would take on the job of director-general. The programme's aim is to set out a “manifesto” for a candidate for an influential position. The BBC has yet to confirm the transmission date for Mr Elstein's programme.

It is not known whether he will repeat on Radio 4 his comments from yesterday's lecture, which included noting that the BBC's News 24 rolling news service is “another nail in the coffin of the licence fee” and that the BBC gives the impression of being a “defensive monolith



David Elstein wants to end funding through licence fee

not an open public body”. He added that the BBC's notorious habit of relying on teams of management consultants must end. He said: “The BBC should give itself a year to dislodge every consultant and then learn to live without them.”

Mr Elstein is widely regarded by media figures and commentators as a favourite external candidate to take over Auntie's top job when the incumbent, John Birt, retires in 2000. His intellectual style – he is one of the youngest students ever to achieve a double first at Cambridge – and credible programming background have led to a perception that he was uncomfortable at the populist Channel 5.

Before joining Channel 5, where he has been chief executive for just over a year, he was the industry-acceptable face of

Sky as director of programmes at BSkyB. He previously had a high-profile television production career, notably at Thames Television.

The BBC governors are already gearing up for the task of appointing Mr Birt's replacement and are reported to be talking to headhunters, as well as lining up internal candidates.

Many of the BBC's senior management are approaching retirement, leaving the corporation in something of a succession crisis with the governors keen to ensure a formal hand-over plan is established swiftly.

Internal figures who might have been tipped for DG include chief executive, BBC production, Ron Neil, who will leave in November, and chief executive, BBC Broadcast, Will Wyatt, who is due to leave next year.

Among other prominent figures outside the BBC mooted for the post are chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television, Greg Dyke, and Channel 4 chief executive Michael Jackson, a former controller of both BBC 1 and BBC 2.

The future of television lies in long-dead game shows such as *Sale of the Century*, says ITV which has unveiled plans for its digital channel ITV2.

ITV2, which is planned to launch at the end of the year, will aim at a younger audience than the mainstream channel, with an emphasis on sport to attract young men.



An audience in Los Angeles at the world premier of *Monsters in Grace*, a 3D digital opera by Robert Wilson and Philip Glass that is showing for the first time in Britain next week at the Barbican, in London. Photograph: Patricia Lanza

## Elderly at risk, says task force

By Glenda Cooper  
Social Affairs Correspondent

FEARS over care of the elderly means responsibility should be taken away from local authorities and be subject to national standards, according to a Government task force.

It is calling for changes to be brought in to stop “major anomalies” which are putting old people at risk.

The review of long-term care published yesterday by the Better Regulation Task Force says the system is “confusing” and consumers have little confidence in it.

The task force recommends that an independent inspectorate should be set up to enforce minimum standards of care in nursing and residential homes.

The chairman of the working group, Dr Chai Patel, said: “At the heart of all regulation has to be the need to provide protection for vulnerable people through guaranteed standards.”

The force wants the responsibilities to be taken out of the hands of local authorities where there could be conflict of interest when such authorities act as providers, purchasers and inspectors of care.

The Department of Health is expected to respond to the review by August.

## Undertaker to be questioned on cremation of wrong body

DETECTIVES are to question an undertaker after it emerged today that the body of a 58-year-old woman was cremated by mistake, while the remains of a 97-year-old woman were buried in her place.

Police carried out an exhumation at the grave of Sheila Gent, 58, at a churchyard in Fulmodestone, Norfolk, yesterday. Checks by Home Office pathologists confirmed that the body in the grave was not that of Mrs Gent.

Detectives said the body in Mrs Gent's grave was almost certainly that of Edith Kemp, 97, and should have been cremated.

Detective Inspector Steve Fernandes said police would

now want to speak to undertaker David Turner, who arranged both funeral services in December 1996.

Both women, who lived in Thetford, died within days of each other and were laid out at Mr Turner's funeral parlour.

Police began inquiries earlier this year after a former member of staff at Mr Turner's funeral company alleged that there had been a mix-up.

She made the claim in court after being convicted of stealing from the company.

“We have been able to establish that the body buried at Fulmodestone is clearly not Mrs Gent,” said Det Insp Fernandes, who is based at Thetford.

“There is strong evidence to show that the body is that of Mrs Kemp. We will be continuing our inquiries and then we will consult the Crown Prosecution Service to see whether any criminal acts have been committed.”

Yesterday Mrs Gent's family solicitor, Ben Dures, said Mr Gent and his children were devastated by the news of the mistake. “The trauma suffered by the family can be well imagined,” he said.

He said it was now likely that the Gent family would launch legal action against Mr Turner.

Mr Turner was at a funeral yesterday and unavailable for comment.

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## Kosovo and Serbs set for first peace talks

By Marcus Tanner

RICHARD HOLBROOKE, the US envoy who forged the Bosnia peace deal in 1995, scored another diplomatic triumph yesterday when he got Serbian and Kosovo leaders to agree to hold the first face-to-face talks tomorrow.

The talks between President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia and Ibrahim Rugova for the Kosovo Albanians mark the first time the two have agreed to meet, and take place as Serbia's rebellious southern province slides deeper towards a full-scale war that may be already too late to stop.

Mr Holbrooke cautioned against any expectation that the meeting will stop the violence that has claimed 150 lives - mostly Albanian - in the past few months. "The gap between the two [Serb and Albanian] sides is as wide as ever," he said. "It could still escalate to something worse than Bosnia". But he insisted that President Milosevic - with whom he formed something of a bond in the run-up to the Bosnia deal - had accepted "personal responsibility" for finding a settlement.

Both sides have accepted a compromise. Mr Rugova had insisted no meeting could take place with the Serbs without the presence - as guarantor - of a third party from the international community. The Serbs offered only low-level meetings - representing their insistence that the Kosovo crisis was an internal Serbian matter. The first signs of concession may have come far too late.

Since Mr Milosevic stripped Kosovo of its autonomy within the old Yugoslavia 10 years ago and incorporated it into metropolitan Serbia he has refused to talk to serious representatives of the 90 per cent of Kosovo's 2 million population who are Albanian. Now everyone - both Serbs and Americans - wants to talk to Mr Rugova, the same man who has been consistently shunned and brushed aside by the West ever since the old Yugoslavia came crashing down in 1991.

The trouble is that he and his pacifist colleagues no longer hold much sway over Kosovo's Albanians, thousands of whom are active members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the shadowy armed body whose gunmen have seized control of large swathes of the province running along the mountainous border with Albania proper.

This week's shootings and killings brought the flames of war licking the edges of the provincial capital, Pristina. To arrest this escalation of violence would be almost a miracle. Mr Rugova's only chance would be to pull off a lightning settlement with Belgrade that restores Kosovo's autonomy in full. Mr Milosevic's track record suggests he will never agree to such a climbdown and he may be merely trying to trick the West into lifting its recently imposed sanctions on Yugoslavia.

Germany gives Clinton a lesson in history

By Imre Karacs in Berlin

GERMANY old and new rolled out the red carpet for the American President, lavishing him with a two-day synopsis of its roller-coaster ride through two centuries of history.

In Potsdam, summer capital of Prussian kings, Bill Clinton feasted yesterday on the favourite dishes of Frederick the Great. After lunch with Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the Sanssouci, the most powerful man on Earth made a detour to Frederick's tomb, paying homage to the first European leader to have signed a friendship treaty with the infant United States.

Later, the motorcade swept into Berlin, the German capital of the past and the future. Chancellor Kohl was on hand again for a joint appearance, both statesmen dwelling on trans-Atlantic ties at the dawn of European Union and Nato expansion towards the east.

Mr Clinton then met Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat politician expected to settle into Chancellor Kohl's armchair after the September elections. Mr Schröder got a lot more time with the President than the German government had bargained for. Instead of the side-show allocated to the challenger in the script drawn up in Bonn, Mr Schröder hogged the limelight, contrasting his growing stature in the international arena with the ebbing power of the Chancellor.

Germany's ceremonial President, Roman Herzog, declared: "Berlin has become the symbol of the link between our peoples." Cue in the Berlin Airlift anniversary, the reason President Clinton crammed Germany into his foray overseas. The Soviet Union imposed a year long blockade on West Berlin 50 years ago.

Today, President Clinton will be at Tempelhof airport to mark the event and deliver his keynote address to Berliners. The speech-writers have a tough act to follow. Two of his predecessors captured the Free World's imagination and wrote their names in the history books respectively with "Ich bin ein Berliner" - John F Kennedy - and "Tear down that wall, Mr Gorbachev" - Ronald Reagan.

Which 'new' bank has the widest range of products?

?

Warm

MEPs back off from euro showdown

THE European Parliament voted for Dutchman Wim Duisenberg to become the first president of the European Central Bank yesterday, despite raising serious objections in the manner in which he was given the job, writes Katherine Butler in Strasbourg.

Mr Duisenberg is cleared to become head of the Frankfurt-based bank, set to become the most powerful monetary institution in the world, on 1 June.

In a gesture of defiance to the French President Jacques Chirac the Strasbourg Parliament urged Mr Duisenberg to stay on beyond June 2002 when the Paris government expects him to give way to Frenchman Jean Claude Trichet. But MEPs backed off from an earlier threat to reject the appointment outright on the grounds that a fudged compromise reached by European heads of government at the Brussels summit on May 2 was in breach of the spirit of the Maastricht treaty.

British Tory MEPs reacted furiously to the Strasbourg vote. John Stevens representing Thames Valley denounced his colleagues as "cowards".

EU leaders appointed Mr Duisenberg for eight years in theory but in a separate political deal cleared the way for the French rival candidate Jean-Claude Trichet to step into his shoes mid-2002 when the euro notes and coins have replaced the separate national monies. This followed a "voluntary" declaration on Mr Duisenberg's part that he would not want to see out the full term.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who represented the EU presidency at yesterday's vote in Strasbourg insisted it was "clearly in accordance" with the Treaty because Mr Duisenberg will take his own decision about the date of his retirement.

After cross-examining Mr Duisenberg an overwhelming majority of MEPs said they were satisfied he had demonstrated his independence.

Bill Clinton (left) and Helmut Kohl at Potsdam yesterday at the start of the US President's visit to Germany for the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. Photograph: Ruth Fremson/AP

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# US warns of fresh arms race as India conducts two more nuclear tests

By Peter Popham  
in New Delhi  
and Andrew Marshall  
in Washington

BRUSHING aside the world's denunciations of the three nuclear tests it carried out on Monday, India yesterday executed two more, then declared the "planned series" of tests was now complete.

The US said the world could be on the brink of another arms race, triggered by India's tests, and slapped sanctions on New Delhi. "There will be a chain-reaction," the Defense Secretary, William Cohen, told a congressional committee. "There will be other countries that see this as an open invitation to try to acquire this technology."

Yesterday President Bill Clinton told a joint news conference with the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, that the tests could lead to "dangerous instability in the region". India should not conduct more tests and its neighbour, Pakistan, should remain calm, he said, calling the tests "deeply disappointing" and "a terrible mistake".

Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, said the Indian leadership had "gone berserk". From China, which India has for the first time publicly identified as its main adversary in the region, there was only an inscrutable silence.

News of yesterday's tests, like Monday's, came out of a clear blue sky. As the first accounts of scenes in villages near the test site in Rajasthan's desert reached the newspapers - a violent shuddering of the earth, cracks appearing in walls of village huts, an outburst of spontaneous rejoicing - the world was stunned to learn India had done it again. The two new tests, according to a statement released by the government, took place at 12.21pm and were both low-yield devices. These, it was implied, would be the last tests. "The tests have been carried out to generate additional data for



Supporters of India's nuclear policy gathering yesterday outside the New Delhi residence of the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee  
Photograph: Reuters

position of sanctions after nuclear tests could set India's economy back five to 10 years.

What the second batch of tests made abundantly clear was that the Hindu nationalist BJP, which has advocated India's possessing nuclear weapons for the past 30 years, had struck a huge patriotic chord in the country at large, transcending party lines.

But the government's majority is minuscule; speculation mounted that they might seize this opportunity to go to the polls again in the next few months, while the chord continues to reverberate, in the hope of emerging with a healthy majority. The sanctions, imposed under a 1994 US non-proliferation law, will be painful but are unlikely to have a severe economic impact.

Analysts in Washington are concerned that other states - led by Pakistan - will follow India's example.

It would be much more difficult to impose sanctions on Pakistan, as they would have a far more damaging impact on a country that is a long-time American ally in the region, and could have a destabilising effect on what is already an unstable country.

The US is also concerned that other states that are known to have pursued a nuclear capability, including Iran, Iraq and North Korea, will see the Indian step as a green light. "We have a real proliferation problem that's taking place globally. This is only going to contribute to that. It's going to cause other countries to find a rationale," Mr Cohen said. He said that about 25 countries now either have or are acquiring nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

improved computer simulation of designs and for attaining the capability to carry out sub-critical experiments, if considered necessary."

According to the government's domestic critics, the new tests were a particularly sinister development. "What they did today makes sense only if they move towards rapid deployment of nuclear weapons," said Pratul Bidwai, a security and nuclear-affairs analyst. "They've started two nuclear arms races, with Pakistan and with China. It's going to degrade security. It's a foolhardy and disastrous thing to do."

Mr Bidwai's interpretation

was bolstered by a statement by the headline Hindu nationalist Manohar Joshi, a senior minister who said on Tuesday that "Indian scientists will put a nuclear warhead on missiles as soon as the situation requires."

The diplomatic fall-out of India's initiative continued unabated. Japan, India's biggest aid donor, said \$30m (£19m) in grants would be cut. Just as Tokyo was announcing the measure, word of the two new tests came through. Later the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, said "Japan would now have to consider... even tougher measures to penalise New Delhi."

After yesterday's tests Derek Fatchett, minister of state at the Foreign Office in London, summoned the Indian High Commissioner, PK Singh, to express shock and dismay. The further tests, he said, "were in flagrant disregard of the concerns already expressed by the international community and made matters yet worse."

In Potsdam, standing alongside his host, Chancellor Kohl, Mr Clinton said the tests were "unjustified and clearly created a dangerous new instability in the region. I've long supported deepening relations with India. This is a deep disappointment for me personally... We hope

the Indian government will soon realise that they can be a great nation in the 21st century without possessing nuclear weapons... It's a perfectly wonderful country and it is not necessary to manifest national greatness by doing this. It is a terrible mistake."

Reaction in Pakistan continued to verge on the hysterical. Ayub Khan said: "The Indian leadership seems to have gone berserk; they are acting in a totally unrestrained way."

But the Pakistani government gave no clear clues as to whether it would follow in India's footsteps or take Mr Clinton's advice and exercise

restraint. In India the outburst of jingoistic excitement that greeted the first tests began moderating into something more reflective.

Economic analysts, pointing out that American companies have plans to invest more than \$11bn in India, doubted that US business would sit idly by and allow such massive amounts to be jeopardised.

Optimists were quoted citing the case of human-rights abuses in China and America's readiness to turn a blind eye to them for the sake of commerce. Set against this was a study made by the Finance Ministry in 1995 which assessed that in-

## CIA red-faced after 'greatest failure in decades'

By Andrew Marshall

INDIA'S ability to conduct nuclear tests without the knowledge of US intelligence agencies has triggered widespread criticism of the CIA and has been characterised as one of its worst failures for years. It will boost American opponents of arms control.

The world's largest, most extensively funded, most technologically advanced intelligence agency was apparently caught napping. When India detonated its nuclear tests on Monday, the Central Intelligence Agency and its associates should have known that some-

thing was up. Indeed, they should have known well in advance. Yet, according to reports yesterday, the agency was unaware. Reports yesterday said "clear-cut" evidence of test preparations was received at midnight on Sunday in Washington. But the analysts responsible were not on alert, as India had persuaded Washington that it was planning no tests. "The context of the intelligence community's error was complacency," according to an official quoted in the *Washington Post*. Even late the following day, officials still seemed uninformed.

Equally, India appears to

have timed the preparation for the tests to coincide with gaps in US satellite coverage, analysts said. "It is apparent the Indians went to some lengths to conceal their activities and intentions," said a CIA spokesman. None the less, "It must be seen as a failure, and a price must be paid," said Frank Cilluffo, senior analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"There were indications from satellites of increasing activity, but they weren't looking at it," said Steven Young, of the British-American Security Information Council, a think tank. "When you're not looking, it's hard to see."

The CIA has announced that a team drawn from the intelligence community and headed by retired Vice Admiral David Jeremiah, a former vice-chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, will investigate how the US came to miss the tests, and report in 10 days. Congress is likely to hold its own hearings today.

The Republican head of the Senate committee that oversees the spy agency lambasted a "colossal failure of our intelligence gathering - possibly the greatest failure in more than a decade". Senator Richard Shelby said that the intelligence community was "caught completely off guard".

## Newspaper editor feels the wrath of Mrs Arafat

By Robert Fisk  
Middle East Correspondent

HELL hath no fury like Suha Arafat scorned. Or so Abdulbaki Attwan found out when he wrote an editorial which criticised - ever so mildly - the wife of the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman. Her sin, according to Mr Attwan's article in the London-based Palestinian newspaper *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, had been to send medicine to Iraq with her name plastered all over the boxes; why, he asked his readers, could the medical supplies not have been sent by "the Palestinian people"?

Anywhere else, the remarks might have been of small mo-

ment. Indeed, Mr Attwan had already written a leader in his paper - printed on an inside page - praising the Palestinian gift of medicines. Mr Attwan wishes to say nothing about the subsequent dispute, but another member of his staff is less reticent. "We were in our editorial meeting, waiting for a picture to use on our front page of the medicines being put aboard a flight to Baghdad," he says. "We were very proud that our besieged Palestinian people would want to show their sympathy in this way for the poor Iraqis."

Then the photograph arrived which showed the medicine boxes, all of which had Suha Arafat's name printed on

the side in large letters - "larger than the boxes themselves!" as another member of staff put it. Mr Attwan was so outraged that he immediately wrote a second editorial for the front page of the paper, condemning the "hypocrisy" of using the name of Yasser Arafat's wife when the Palestinian people were themselves the donors.

Within hours of the paper's appearance, Suha Arafat was on the phone. "She was screaming at Abdulbaki, asking him why he had criticised her and telling him she had sent the medicines in the name of the Palestinian people," the *Al-Quds al-Arabi* staff member says. "She claimed she had put her name on the boxes of medicines for Iraq to 'protect the Palestinian people' - because Abu Amar [Arafat] and his colleagues were frightened that [Israeli prime minister] Netanyahu would be angry if he saw the medicines came from all Palestinians."

The Saudi-owned newspaper *Al-Hayat* defended Mrs Arafat, who later gave an indignant interview to the magazine *Al-Majalla* - also Saudi-owned - saying she would repeat her medical shipments to Iraq. "She

said that those who didn't like it could drink sea water," Mr Attwan's colleague explained.

When Mr Arafat arrived for last week's doomed "peace" talks in London, the luckless Mr Attwan tried to make amends by visiting the PLO chairman at Claridges. He got short shrift. "Arafat saw him after a delay but was very cold," the editor's colleague says. "Clearly, he had not been forgiven."

All of which proves that a Palestinian editor's duty is not a happy one. Two days ago, this salient fact was demonstrated yet again. After criticising the Jordanian government, Mr Attwan received a letter from the Ministry of Information in Amman, telling him that his paper was permanently banned in the Hashemite Kingdom.

*Al-Quds al-Arabi* was hitherto regarded as something of a mouthpiece for the PLO. So what happened? Where is its money coming from to fund the paper and its nine staff? The editor laughs bitterly. "You may well ask," Mr Attwan says. "Now we are not getting on with our landlord in London. And yesterday, the bailiffs came to call on us..."

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# Suharto flies back to streets of rage

By Richard Lloyd Parry  
in Jakarta

IN SOME of the worst mob violence ever seen in Jakarta, 10 people were killed and shops, homes and cars were burned, hours after Indonesia's opposition leaders called on the armed forces to join them in deposing President Suharto.

Eyewitnesses said that nine ethnic Chinese were burned to death after gangs of youths attacked their homes, shouting "Let's kill the Chinese" and "Let's wipe out the Chinese". At least one other person was killed and more than 25 were injured as police and soldiers fired live rounds and plastic bullets in intermittent attempts to control the mob in the streets around Trisakti University.

It was the second day of violence in the Indonesian capital. On Tuesday police shot dead six students from the Trisakti campus. But what began as an act of remembrance for the dead students then degenerated into a frightening outburst of racist resentment directed against Indonesia's wealthy Chinese minority.

Two of the students were buried yesterday after an electrifying campus rally attended by the country's most influential and respected opposition leaders, including Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's founding president, and Ali Sadikin, a retired marine general and former mayor of Jakarta. All of them denounced the killings of the students, called for the continuation of peaceful demonstrations and urged the armed forces to act against Suharto in order to further political reform.

"We make our appeal to the senior commanders of the Indonesian armed forces," said Amien Rais, the American-educated political scientist who leads the 28 million strong Muslim organisation, Muhammadiyah. "They have two options. Either protect the in-

terests of one man and his family - or protect the entire nation. Muslims call on you to overthrow the power of exploitation."

All day the students continued their speeches within the university campus. But it was in the streets surrounding the campus that the most amazing scenes occurred as thousands of young men, mostly working class Jakartans, embarked on a five-hour rampage which police made only desultory attempts to contain.

The demonstrators began by pulling down trees and fences

to create barricades near the university, then set fire to a lorry which burned under a fly-over, sending up billows of black smoke and effectively closing off one of the main approaches to the centre of Jakarta. Then they moved towards the hotel and shopping centre owned by members of President Suharto's family. It was at this point that riot police formed a line across a bridge over a canal.

"Fuck Suharto! Kill the President!" the crowd screamed, as the police were driven back under a barrage of hurled rocks.

One man demolished a set of traffic lights by striking it repeatedly with a No Parking sign ripped from a nearby pavement. Without any regard for their own safety, schoolboys carrying satchels ran within a few yards of the armed police. At first the police did no more than throw the stones back, but eventually they started firing, apparently with blank or plastic-coated rounds.

The mob then marched down Kyai Tapa street, tearing up street signs and ornamental lamp posts in full view of several

hundred riot police and marines, who made little effort to intervene even when they came under fusillades of stones and petrol bombs.

The crowd then set a petrol station on fire. The mirrored glass windows of a branch of Bank Bali were smashed with stones; computer terminals ripped from inside were placed in a pile in the middle of the road and burned. By mid-afternoon, black clouds of smoke rose from at least five separate fires, all burning within a two mile radius.

At about 3 o'clock, a stolen Mitsubishi truck with smashed windows was driven towards a line of police. Shots rang out and the crowd scattered. A few minutes later, *The Independent* was shown the mutilated body of a man whose skull had been cracked open, apparently in a collision with the truck.

It was in the Cengkareng and Jelambar areas, north-west of the university, that gangs of looters set fire to Chinese shops and houses, killing nine people in the process. Less than 5 per cent of Indonesia's population is of

Chinese extraction, but they control some 70 per cent of the country's wealth and have been increasingly targeted as scapegoats for the country's economic crisis.

There were intermittent volleys of shots all afternoon. Twenty-five people were treated at the university clinic, eight of them for wounds from plastic bullets. But one man was being operated on after being shot with a live round which entered the front of his shoulder and passed through out of his back, leaving a long, open exit wound.

Special intervention forces prepare to fire at students demonstrating against President Suharto in the university city of Yogyakarta yesterday

Photograph: Maya Vidon/APF

The police and army appear to have learned one lesson from events on Tuesday - that casualties, especially those among students, only inflame an already explosive political situation. There were similar, although less destructive demonstrations at universities in the cities of Surabaya and Yogyakarta, both of them, like Jakarta, on the island of Java.

The crisis in Indonesia remains fluid, as President Suharto is still absent from the country. Yesterday he announced he will curtail his state visit to Egypt. "He has changed his plans and he is leaving tomorrow after meeting [Egyptian President Hosni] Mubarak," one Indonesian official said.

President Suharto arrived in Cairo on Saturday to attend a summit meeting of developing countries and pay an official visit to Egypt, leaving behind his country rent by riots and its worst economic crisis in decades. The president has made no public comment on the rioting in Indonesia during his stay in Cairo.

The European Union yesterday called on Indonesia to investigate the deaths in recent disturbances and refrain from lethal force. "The loss of life in Indonesia is disturbing," said a statement released by the Foreign Office in Britain, current president of the EU.

The violence and boldness of this week's demonstrations show a remarkable change of mood in a people who have passively tolerated the rule of one man for 32 years. It is hard to believe that such change can now be arrested, let alone reversed.

## Beauty business with an ugly side

By Phil Davison  
in Bogota

ALONG with their coffee and their football, Colombians love nothing better than a beauty pageant. They were glued to their sets early yesterday to watch Miss Colombia take on 80 other girls for the Miss Universe title in Hawaii.

Their first hope? That their girl, Silvia Fernanda Ortiz, came home with the crown. As it turned out, she dropped out in the last five. Their second? That Miss Ortiz can stay out of the clutches of the drug lords, who are known for buying young beauty queens - often from poor families - with lavish gifts, jewellery, cash and cocaine.

Colombians were reminded of the problem last week when Luis Murcia Sierra, better known by his nickname Martelo, was detained in the capital



The new Miss Universe from Trinidad and Tobago

on suspicion of heading the notorious Bogota cocaine cartel. With him when arrested was Paula Andrea Salazar, a teenage beauty queen running for the provincial title of Miss Cartagena.

When the anti-drug squad found Martelo's personal photo album, it was full of sexy pictures of other beauty queens,

including a former Miss Brazil - Leila Christine Schuster.

"I like beauty queens. I used to change them every week but the Brazilian was the best of my life," the suspected drug lord told police. Another picture was of Alexandra Serrano, a beautiful teenage television presenter, who later admitted to Colombian reporters that she had met Martelo when she was 14 and that he had been "a divine boyfriend" until last year.

Since his detention, Martelo has been visited by a succession of beauty queens, models and young female television or film stars, police said. That reminded people of a former runner-up for Miss Colombia who, two weeks after the pageant, was found to have made an overnight conjugal visit to a jailed drug lord. She was stripped of her title.

Another former Miss Colombia runner-up, Claudia

Milena Garcia, admitted this week that she had had an affair with Luis Carlos Aguilar, a "lieutenant" of former Medellin cartel chief Pablo Escobar.

Escobar, killed by Colombian troops five years ago, was renowned for buying beautiful women and taking them to his various ranches for weekend parties. His favourite game was watching them slide naked down the banisters of his staircase.

Although Martelo had many properties, police found his key possessions in three suitcases - one full of emeralds and diamonds, one packed with cellular telephones and a pistol, and the third listing his bank accounts and payments to contacts.

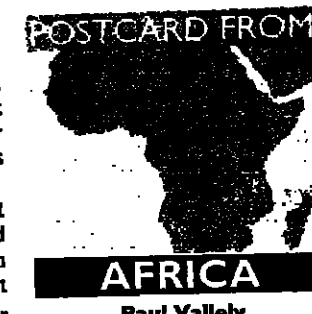
Martelo's father, Lucho Murcia, is one of Colombia's top emerald dealers - a business rife with violence and often used as a money laundering outlet for the cocaine cartels.

## Zambians struggle for dignity under the burden of debt

I AM the only person in the breakfast room at Kapinanga House when the middle-aged priest in clerical black enters. It is only after we have talked for some time that I discover he is the Archbishop of Lusaka.

He fulminates on the subject of Zambia's foreign debt and how the original sum has been repaid many times over and yet - thanks to the dubious miracle of compound interest - the country owes more now than ever before. Every child born here emerges into the world with a debt of \$950 (£590) around his or her neck - the highest per capita debt anywhere in the world. More than that, he says, the Western nations, which take \$3 in debt repayments for every \$1 they give in aid, are the same countries who have taken Zambia's copper for years at unfair prices. Yet when I ask if I may get my notebook and interview him, the Catholic prelate comes over all discreet.

Church leaders in Zambia have a delicate line to tread. Their commentaries on the



AFRICA  
Paul Vallely

economic and political life of the nation - and their impact on the most vulnerable citizens - are not universally appreciated.

"Stop hiding behind God!" roared the Zambian Finance Minister recently, demanding that the Church should declare itself as a political party and stand for election against the government. It was a measure of how - in a country where the political opposition is largely ineffective - it is the Church which is the most powerful advocate for the vulnerable.

Five years ago it published a prophetic document *Hear the Cry of the Poor* which insisted

economic policies must be judged against basic questions about human dignity. It set up a project, funded from Britain by the Catholic aid agency Cafod, to monitor the impact on the very poor of the economic reforms - with their cuts in food, health and education budgets - put in place to enable Zambia to pay the interests on its debt.

Its strength lies in the fact that its Justice and Peace secretariat is rooted in a network of information-gathering activists drawn from ordinary church members throughout the vast areas covered by its nine dioceses. They tour the villages collecting data on how much each family has eaten and spent - and on what - each month.

Added to that are the economic skills of a team led by an American Jesuit, Fr Peter Henriot, which has produced an appraisal which does not deny that reform is necessary, but insists the cost should not be borne disproportionately by the poor.

"The Church has played an absolutely crucial role in keeping the government on its toes,"

one senior civil servant in the Finance Ministry told me privately. It has also provided the economic data which has allowed Henry Northover, Cafod's policy analyst, to come up with a formula - now gaining support from other aid agencies - for economic reform which requires that a certain amount be spent on health and education before calculations are made on what level of debt repayments the country can afford.

What is being built by the Church and other non-governmental organisations and an intrepid free press is the beginnings of that civil society which is vital to underpin true democracy.

Life and death decisions on debt should not be left solely in the hands of Western financiers and African elites. Mechanisms are being created by which policy can be influenced by the people whose lives and deaths are at stake. Western politicians should back the process.

Tomorrow: Meeting the money men

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# Child B: the truth about her last days



Everybody had an opinion about how to treat Jaymee Bowen as she battled against leukaemia. But as a new study reveals, nobody could agree. Jeremy Laurance reports

THE story of Jaymee Bowen, better known as Child B, is one of the most harrowing in the recent history of the NHS. When she came to public notice in early 1995, aged 10, she had spent half her life battling cancer. The disease had returned (as acute myeloid leukaemia) and her family and doctors faced an agonising choice: whether to keep her comfortable until she died or whether to persist with more aggressive treatment in the hope of a cure.

It is a question that sooner or later every cancer victim faces. In Jaymee's case, everyone had an opinion, but there were no clear answers, as the first detailed study of her tragic case, published today by the King's Fund, makes clear.

It is a story of a father driven by despair over his dying child, a health authority cleaving to its public responsibility, and eminent consultants at loggerheads over the best way forward. Above all it demonstrates that what was presented at the time as a row about NHS rationing was, in truth, nothing of the sort. It was about what sort of treatment was appropriate for a child staring death in the face. As Professor Albert Weale of Essex University says in the foreword: "If tragedy is the clash of right against right, here, quite simply, was a tragedy."

It was when Cambridge Health Authority, responsible for Jaymee's care, refused to pay for a second bone marrow transplant that her story made the headlines in March 1995. Her father, David Bowen, a volatile and determined man,

had decided she should be given the chance of life, however slim and whatever the human and financial cost. He committed himself to obtaining the treatment she needed, working night and day in libraries, telephoning experts around the world, cajoling and lying his way into their consulting rooms.

The result was that Jaymee's case became a cause célèbre, portrayed as an example of NHS rationing at its worst in which callous bureaucrats were denying a young girl a chance of life. David Bowen went to court to compel the health authority to pay for further treatment. He lost, but the publicity generated by the case achieved the end he wanted. An anonymous donor agreed to pay the £75,000 cost of further treatment, which began in March 1995 in a private London clinic.

Jaymee lived for a further year, longer than most consultants had given her. During that year she had further chemotherapy and an experimental treatment known as donor lymphocyte infusion. Her indomitable spirit carried her through and she appeared to think the pain and discomfort was worth it.

A *Panorama* programme shown in October 1996 made her an instant celebrity. Asked for her advice to other children in her position, she replied: "Never give up. Never give up until you are on the last little drop of life."

By March of the following year, however, she had apparently had enough. The reaction known as graft-versus-host disease that the paediatric oncol-

ogists had feared and which had until then been held in check settled in her lungs. She had difficulty breathing, it became painful to swallow and sometimes she was so short of breath she could hardly climb the stairs. Two months later, she died a harrowing death.

In this unique and sensitive study, the authors, Professor Chris Ham and Susan Pickard of the Health Services Management Centre at the University of Birmingham, were granted interviews by all the protagonists in the case, most importantly with the senior consultants, who have never spoken about it before. The most surprising aspect of the report is the profound disagreement among them and the hostility which they felt towards each other.

The paediatric cancer specialists who cared for Jaymee most of her life at Addenbrooke's and who were consulted for a second opinion at the Royal Marsden in London believed palliative care was the only option. It would allow her to enjoy what remained of her life, avoiding further suffering – and there was no guarantee, anyway, that more aggressive treatment would gain her extra time. Dr Valerie Broadbent of Addenbrooke's said that all her clinical experience confirmed that further intensive treatment in Jaymee's case would not be in the patient's best interests. She was concerned with what she called "good death and bad death." Dr Simon Meller of the Royal Marsden was unequivocal. "I won't go on doing treatments

that I think are wrong for children or unkind to children."

The adult leukaemia specialists whom David Bowen consulted at Hammersmith Hospital and the private Portland Clinic took the view that extending Jaymee's life was worthwhile even if she could not be cured. They cited Mr Bowen's strong wish to do everything possible and Jaymee's courageous attitude to her illness. Professor John Goldman of the Hammersmith said: "If you say that just prolonging people's lives for six months is futile, then for practical purposes I'm out of business. We don't cure that many people with proper cancer. We do prolong their life."

Dr Peter Gravett, the consultant haematologist who treated Jaymee privately, said: "Paediatricians feel that if there is no protocol then there should be no treatment."

This clash of philosophy generated fierce animosity. The paediatricians accused the adult specialists of "clinical arrogance" and the adult specialists responded with charges of "empire building" by the paediatricians.

It was also a clash between state and private medicine. As one paediatrician put it: "Some specialists would feel that somebody is trying to tell them how they should or shouldn't practise medicine. It's very classical behaviour of famous specialists. They usually have a very

large private practice and whatever rules we decide are appropriate in the NHS, they won't apply to private practice."

Each side clung to its own view and its right to disagree. As the report says, it reflects the individualistic values to which medicine has always subscribed. The report recommends that a limit be placed on the number of opinions that patients and health authorities are allowed to seek (the Patients Charter currently permits two) and that children should be given a greater say in how decisions are made.

Was it all worth it for Jaymee? The central issue in the case was the ancient medical conundrum of how to ensure that more good is done

than harm. Even now, after her death, the specialists disagree on the benefits of her treatment. Professor Goldman said it had achieved its object of buying more time. Dr Broadbent maintained that she would almost certainly have enjoyed as much good quality life with palliative care, even though she might have died sooner.

Near the end, Jaymee was asked if she was prepared for death. In her reply she expressed her longing to be free of the body to which she had been shackled. "There is nothing to be scared of and hopefully it won't be painful. I don't want to die, but if I do and there is an afterlife I want to come back as a butterfly."

"Every single day you buy is priceless"

TWO years after Jaymee's death, her father David remains convinced he did the right thing for his daughter. He won her an extra year of life when she was, in his words, facing "imminent extinction."

"Every single day you buy in that situation is priceless. There is no other word for it," he said yesterday.

The extra year brought much happiness and the human cost, in terms of her own suffering, was not excessive, he says. "I have got a photo album full of happy memories. She thoroughly enjoyed every minute she had. She went to Disneyland and to Harrods and did all sorts of things she would never have done. Even when she was in hospital the chemotherapy didn't affect her that much. She was just that kind of person."

His chief complaint about the NHS is that because she was a child, the right to decide her own fate was removed from her and given to the paediatricians. When, by his own efforts, he established that there were other options – held out by the adult leukaemia specialists he consulted – there was no system for considering them. He wanted to get all the doctors and the health authority to sit down and thrash out the differences between them. Instead, all communications between him and the NHS managers, who were denying his daughter treatment were by fax and phone, a point criticised in the King's Fund report.

"If they were going to rob her of the possibility of life they should at least have explained why," he said.

The end of his battle to save her has left him feeling empty, he says. "For such a long period my entire life was consumed with it 24 hours a day. Now I get up in the morning and feel I am not much use anymore."

Jeremy Laurance



Jaymee Bowen with her father, David. His tenacity turned her story into front-page news Photograph: Kevin Lamarque

The Re

Sir John

## My part-time husband is wreaking havoc at home

### DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

Diane's husband works abroad four weeks in six. On his return, he struts around like the man of the house, ticking off the kids. He only wants to be with Diane, so she can't maintain a social life. She loves her husband, but how can she cope?

WHEN cats return home after a spell away they go round the house wiggling their tails and spraying in every corner. They want to re-establish their territory. It sounds as though Diane's husband, after his absence, is indulging in similar kind of feline behaviour, making his mark on the children, by disciplining them over little matters. He has to make his presence felt.

Lots of part-time partners do the same. Some come home and make it party time – "Hey I'm back, relax everyone!" – which can be equally irritating to the partner left at home if she

has spent weeks trying to cobble together a status quo.

It sounds as though Diane's husband is terrified of not being needed after his long time away, too, so he creates things to do, whether they're appropriate or not. He wants Diane to himself for similar motives – he wants to surround her with his presence like a fog, and not risk meeting anyone else who might entertain her or leave their mark on her.

On the other hand, Diane probably feels, at some level, extremely angry at being abandoned for a month at a time. Plus, it's been a struggle for her

to keep going alone, and every time her husband comes home he appears to delight in mucking up her carefully constructed routine.

How can they improve matters? It sounds as though they don't communicate a lot when he's away. Maybe they feel the time-difference is too hard to maintain proper contact, or it's too expensive to make endless long-distance calls several times a day. But it's worth it.

That way Diane's husband can do a bit of his spraying over the phone. Diane should ask him if he'd like to be consulted on domestic matters and my guess

is that he would. He'd like to be rung for his advice when the fridge starts to leak; he'd like to be told what homework had to be done when the kids came back from school; he'd like to be asked whether he thinks lime green is the right colour for the kitchen; he'd even like to be asked if he thinks she should cut the grass.

Of course, maybe he would not like to be consulted. Maybe his life is one long round of meetings (What does go on in meetings by the way? I've never been to one. I imagine they're a lot of waffle going in a boardroom with clipboards and glasses of water and new pencils). Maybe he is so pre-occupied with writing minutes (another baffling area) that he has no time to discuss household matters. If so, Diane's perfectly justified in getting furious when he comes home and starts moving the furniture around.

Whatever they do, they should do something out about the children, who will otherwise get extremely baffled by the double standards imposed in their home and, worse, dread their father's return as he struts about like a petty Hitler. And why Diane can't maintain a social life during her husband's absences is beyond me. Maybe she'll worry about being called

a fair-weather friend if she cuts off every so often for a fortnight, but most friends can hang on that long.

At the moment this marriage is not a happy one. Ultimately, it might be worth considering her husband getting a job nearer home even if it means a cut in pay. It all depends whether both Diane and he consider the maintenance of their marriage as a real priority in their lives.

### READERS' REPLIES

I work away from home a lot of the time, but my partner keeps in touch all the time. We ring each other sometimes three times a day, send e-mails and faxes and write letters. She has a full social life and I trust her completely, and it's always wonderful to be back at home – like a honeymoon every time. Diane's husband sounds like a control freak. Even if he were at home all the time I think she'd find things difficult. She says she loves him, but does he love her? They need to sort things out – quickly.

Alan, Richmond

I'd have a rip-roaring row with him for being so unappreciative of my efforts to manage family affairs in his absence.

But a more subtle approach is necessary. Perhaps he is trying to re-establish his identity and impose his own personality on the family each time he comes home, and in doing so wreaks havoc. Like a child he needs reassurance that he is needed and loved. Diane should stress how much they miss him and need him. If this doesn't improve things she might show him a list of the points in her letter. He may not realise how much trouble he is causing. Then, he probably does, in which case straight talking may help him grow up.

Yvonne

My husband is quite different to Diane's. He comes home at weekends and expects everything to be done for him. He lives in a hotel during the week and sometimes I think he sees his home as just another hotel. He indulges the children and refuses to discipline them, so I feel I am the monster of the family. He also expects me to get them out of the way when he wants a rest. Also, he's very social and often he's down at the pub with old friends. If I were Diane I wouldn't worry. She's lucky to have a husband who seems to want to contribute to family life, even if it is rather over the top.

Anon

### NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

We have taken a house in the country for a month during the summer. The problem is our cat, who is very dependent on us. Should we put him in a cattery for a month? Or should we leave him at home with someone popping in to feed him? Or

should we take him with us? I am terrified he might get lost if we do. Yours, Mandy

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send comments and

suggestions to Virginia Ironside at the Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday morning. If you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.

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هذا من الاصل



Even if it were thought that the outcome of the litigation was uncertain, the court would exercise its discretion to refuse the injunction for the following reasons: the press and broadcasters should not be silenced on a matter so deeply affecting the public by a claim with limited or uncertain prospects of success; the balance of convenience favoured the refusal of an injunction, since the impact and value of the film depended on timing, news value and topicality; and the extraordinary and unacceptable delay by the plaintiffs in applying for the injunction.



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## Toughest choices for the NHS

"IF REASONS for choices in health care were made public, the quality of decisions about priorities would improve and the public's understanding increase".

That is the conclusion of the Kings Fund's report on the case of Jaymee Bowen. Of course it is hard to disagree with the idea that there should be more information about the way the National Health Service reaches its decisions. In its fifty years of existence the NHS's rationing of health care on clinical grounds has been, mostly, accepted but not comprehended. An educative process might indeed improve public understanding of the more unpalatable decisions; it cannot answer the crucial question of what body should be charged with making these most difficult choices in the first place.

The case of Jaymee Bowen revolved around whether the Cambridgeshire Health Authority, on the advice of doctors, was right to refuse to spend about £75,000 on a second bone-marrow transplant for her cancer. They judged that it had only the very slimmest chances of success. But there was an alternative opinion available which Jaymee's father naturally pursued. A private doctor agreed that the chances of ultimate survival for Jaymee were low, but thought that she would live longer and that the operation was thus "worth it". In the end the matter was decided by the courts, who agreed with the authority. An anonymous donor paid for the treatment to be done and Jaymee lived for another year or so.

The controversy arose because medical opinion diverged. It became acute because of the cost of the treatment. Circumstances were complicated by the rivalry between the two camps of doctors, who sometimes appeared to treat the case in a political rather than a clinical fashion. Medics are, after all, as prone to factionalism as any of us.

The important question is what is the best forum for the arbitration of the difficult, exceptional cases like Jaymee's. A court of law cannot be ideal. But neither is the "court" of public opinion. The patient or the patient's close family cannot be the ultimate arbiters: they will always look to any hope, even if it is not a realistic hope. Such emotive, complex and technical issues demand that the debate be carried out privately and deliberately by competent people who enjoy the confidence of all those involved. It must be a high and independent body specifically charged with reaching a medical consensus. But the final decision about the commitment of public resources must remain with health service managers, who ought to be accountable to the public. Given the pace of the development of new, expensive drugs and procedures there will be more and more cases like Jaymee. Of course, as the Kings Fund says, health service practitioners should make clear the reasons for the decisions they take. But if that system is to work well we need also to confront the emotional impulse that every treatment, however expensive or unproven, should always be provided by the NHS.

## Wakeham fails to hit the target

THE CAPACITY of tabloid newspaper readers to ironise and deconstruct what they read should never be underestimated. Readers of the *Daily Star*, for example, may not score highly on advertisers' wish-lists or academic attainment tests, but they are not stupid enough to take silly headlines about frogs in football literally, especially if they have anything to do with Arsenal, Spurs or any other club which relies on French talent. Committees sitting in sententious judgement on the handiwork of back-page sub-editors run a grave risk of themselves looking ridiculous.

But it is also the job of the Press Complaints Commission to fire warning shots across editorial bows and the *Star* and rivals tempted to follow its lead need to be warned. The forthcoming World Cup will excite passions and newspapers should report as we all would wish players on the field to behave – with engagement, but responsibly. Lord Wakeham and his colleagues know the score when it comes to international football competition. Who else is in a position to strike pre-emptively when newspapers are in danger of behaving badly? That chance has been open to them for months and the commission should have stirred itself sooner to prevent World Cup coverage becoming tainted by jingoism. In refusing to rule against the *Daily Star*'s headline about kicking the French – deemed to be a mere matter of taste, and hence apparently outside the commission's remit – the commission has missed a trick.

Perhaps Lord Wakeham has forgotten that the commission is an adjudicator on trial. Substantive issues of privacy and press intrusion in the context of incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights remain to be settled. This episode can have won the commission few admirers.

## Standing up to Stalin

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton is in Germany today to mark 50th anniversary next month of the Berlin airlift. It is worth recalling how it origins were in money, sound money. Stalin's fear of the efficacy of the new West German currency caused him to blockade the sectors of Berlin controlled by the Allies – an action encapsulating the economic perversion at the heart of Soviet Communism. For nearly a year Allied air forces kept the city alive and set the boundary to that containment of the Soviet Union which ended with the collapse of the Wall in 1989. Already the Cold War years seem far off, moments of high drama – such as the first RAF Dakotas trundling into Gatow – fade into the mists of video clips and school texts. But every once in a while, on anniversaries such as this, it is worth pausing to remember and celebrate the right decision, taken at the right time and the good consequences which flowed from it, both for Berliners and the West at large.



### Sierra Leone's freedom

Sir: For the first time that I have seen, a correspondent (Letters, 13 May) has sought to set out the views of the Sierra Leonean people in the current rumpus.

The facts, which have been considerably muddled when not ignored, are that on 25 May 1997 the government of Sierra Leone, elected only a year previously in a remarkable demonstration of power by a people determined to rid themselves of military control, was overthrown in a brutal coup organised by the army and the Dissident Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

No recognition was given to this regime, which called itself the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), least of all by the people, who maintained a brave stance of non-cooperation. Thousands fled the country, while those that remained risked death and mutilation as well as looting.

Attempts to remove the AFRC by negotiation, led by West African states with the full co-operation in particular of Britain, were abortive. Sanctions, here again with Britain taking the lead in the UN, were imposed and the task of trying to ensure compliance was given to the Nigerian-led peace-keeping force Ecomog, which had been assembled to operate in Liberia (and in which there was a Sierra Leonean component).

Sanctions proved ineffective. The AFRC was able to obtain arms and recruit mercenaries to maintain itself in power while it continued to repress and to plunder. Finally Ecomog took forceful action. Freetown was liberated in a few days; but up-country AFRC forces committed unbelievable acts of savagery (killing, maiming, rape and destruction) as they were forced to give ground. Can anyone seriously contend that these things could have been negotiated away?

Now President Tejan-Kabbah has been restored. Refugees are returning. The people's human and civil rights have been restored, and except for Kono, where an AFRC rump is holding out, they can go about their ordinary business and reconstruct their lives.

The people know that it was a

Nigerian-led force that liberated them. They know that international support was mustered by Britain. Hence the adulation given to Peter Penfold as Britain's representative – although they also acknowledge the part played by Tony Lloyd as the minister responsible, who quickly visited them as a member of a Commonwealth ministerial delegation.

Old and discredited Sierra Leonean politicians who hoped to get back under the wing of AFRC have been feeding misinformation to gullible politicians with a voice in Britain. A company whose trade is war is claiming a role that is certainly exaggerated. The media and the Opposition here are seeking to embarrass our government for reasons of domestic political advantage.

Yes, claims and allegations of breaches of UN sanctions have to be investigated. But the Prime Minister's firm statement putting matters in perspective is assuredly to be welcomed. Let us celebrate with the people of Sierra Leone the freedom that we have helped restore to them.

DEREK W PARTRIDGE  
London SE16  
The writer was High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, 1986-91

### Winning Windows

Sir: David Osborne provides one possible explanation for people's use of Windows: because they like it ("Bill Gates is going into battle with the US government", 12 May). A straw-poll of the Windows users I know provides a different reason: because they have no other viable option. In an ideal market, the consumer has the privilege of choosing the best product for their needs, but we do not live in such enlightened times.

Joel Klein of the US Justice Department should ponder the following problem. Is it better for the consumer to have the option of using many different operating systems

(and associated software) with the hassle of data conversion between different standards, or would he or she prefer standardised Microsoft products which have no competition and consequently less pressure to improve rapidly? Would the amount of time saved using a system honed to perfection by pressure from the "consumer with a choice" offset the extra hours needed to overcome incompatibility problems between rival systems? If the answer is yes, then by all means let us split up Microsoft.

ADRIAN GILBY  
Department of Computing  
Imperial College  
London SW7

Sir: It is ironic that *The Independent* should apparently be oblivious to the effect on a market of a single dominant player. Bill Gates already wields considerably more power in the computer industry than Rupert Murdoch is ever likely to achieve in the media. And rather than innovate Microsoft spends, in the last three years alone having purchased outright more than 30 technology companies.

It is extremely naive to believe that any monopoly can be benign, even beneficial. Microsoft could achieve sole control both of the desktop, which determines the software you use, and of access to the Internet, which dictates the information you see. In an age of information, control of information is the most dangerous monopoly of all.

ROGER HOUGHTON  
Bath

### Safer trains

Sir: Dr Arthur Tarrant asks (letter, 7 May) why the "simple system of ATP" (train stops) used on London Underground cannot be used to address the problem of drivers accidentally passing red signals on the mainline railway.

Such systems are used in some lo-

cations but are not suitable where speeds are much above 50mph, because of the large stopping distances then involved. The existing Automatic Warning System (AWS) provides similar functionality but can be overridden by the driver. What is needed is something a bit better than train stops or AWS without incurring the massive cost (circa £1,000m) of fitting the network with a full supervision system like ATP.

That "something" is the Train Protection Warning System (TPWS). TPWS has taken us three years and about £6m to date to develop. It provides the same functions as AWS plus a train-stop and a speed-trap which the driver cannot override. The speed-trap allows us to give protection at speeds where the train-stop alone would not.

TPWS is just completing a successful trial on part of the Thameslink fleet and route. With the support and co-operation of the train operating companies and rolling stock owners, network-wide fitments should be possible in five to six years – much faster than would be possible for ATP and at about 15 per cent of the cost. Incidentally, the £850m saved does not become profit. It is capital which can then be invested in other things to improve customer service or address other safety issues.

RODERICK MUTTRAM  
Director, Safety and Standards  
Railtrack  
London, NW1

### International craze?

Sir: Given the attempts of nations as varied as Norway, Portugal, Poland and Cyprus to increase their chances of winning Eurovision in recent years by adding "Irish" elements to their entries, can we now look forward to a cluster of transsexual singers in the 1999 competition?

RICHARD BARTLE  
West Bergholt, Essex

### Monarchy mockery

Sir: Very few Australians would agree with Glenister Sheil's assertion (letter, 11 May) that the Queen's role in the Australian democracy is merely a "congenial reminder of our remarkable constitutional development".

In our recent Constitutional Convention, a very substantial majority clearly rejected the present role of Her Majesty which many think puts such emphasis on the second syllable of "democracy" that our Constitution should be changed to ensure a really Australian head of state and thus to eliminate, once and for all, this mockery.

For that majority and those whom they represent, the only real issue remaining, despite the views of Sheil and his sentimental coterie of monarchists, is how an Australian head of state is to be selected and, if necessary, dismissed. They expect that to be determined before 2000.

JAMES T C BRASSILL  
Frankston,  
Victoria,  
Australia

Sir: W Denis Walker (letters, 11 May) mentions that Britain's next head of state has been trained for his future role from birth. Did Tony Blair undergo similar training for his role? If not, has the Labour Party received its "New Deal" subsidy for taking on an unskilled worker?

DANIEL SMITH  
Aberdeen

### First music hall

Sir: Whilst one wishes every success to the London Music Hall Trust in their efforts to secure funds for Wilton's Music Hall (report, 11 May), we should be clear that it is not the oldest surviving building of this kind. The Britannia, in the Tringate in Glasgow, was opened in 1857. Sadly, it has not caught the imagination of the showbusiness world: the process of decay will probably pass the title to Wilton's.

JOHN BURNETT  
Curator of the History of Leisure  
National Museums of Scotland  
Edinburgh

## Gloomy outlook in the garden? Just send for Ken and his arboreal assassins



MILES KINGTON

### PEOPLE WHO HAVE VERY UNUSUAL JOBS INDEED

No 37: A Contract Tree Killer

"JUST imagine the situation," says Ken Quilter (not his real name). "You're a retired couple. You've got a nice restful garden with a sunny lawn. Then one day the next door neighbour plants a line of fast-growing *Leylandii*. They push up like Jack's beanstalk and before you know where you are, there's a big dark wall of green looming over YOUR garden, making your life a misery and cutting out half the light. What do you do?"

Creep next door at night and chop the things down?

"But what if you get caught? Do you know what the law will do to you if you are caught rearranging your neighbour's garden?"

"No, quite. So what you do is send for me, and I do the dirty work for you. Call

me a hatchet man, if you like."

Ken Quilter (not his real name) laughs at his own joke. Well, he is entitled. He is, after all, a contract killer, even if only of trees.

"Well, yes, in the sense that an angler is a fish-killer or a florist is a flower-killer, I suppose that is what I am. But Tree Disposal is what it says on my business card."

And there's a demand for it?

"Enormous," says Ken Quilter, whose real name is Nigel Footley, which is not his real name either. "Look, just think about it. There's this huge bank of *Leylandii* staring at you, which you hate. You want to get rid of it. If you, the householder, do it, you'll be arrested. If you hire an unknown to do it, and pay cash in used fivers, you're safe. As long as you've got an alibi, to prove you couldn't have carried out the revenge, of course. When I'm doing a job I always advise the client to be elsewhere. In Barbados for two weeks,

preferably. That's what I call a good alibi."

Has he ever been caught?

"Funnily enough, the biggest danger is not of being caught in the act of tree chopping, but just of being caught on someone else's property, because then people will suspect you're a burglar, which is far more serious. Nobody ever jumps to the conclusion that you're just there to remove trees!"

Yes. But has he ever been caught?

"Let's just say I've had to talk my way out of some pretty odd situations. I was once paid to remove quite a large sycamore, and that required a lot of climbing about in the upper branches, planning the operation. Guess what I was arrested for?"

"Don't know."

"Being a peeping Tom! They let me go, though."

Why?

"I'm short-sighted. Couldn't see a thing from up there, let alone a lady through a

bathroom window. That's what I told the police, anyway."

But how did he ever manage to remove a whole sycamore tree undetected?

"Ah – me and my gang dressed up as council workers. Zipped in and chopped the tree down. By the time local outrage was up and going and getting organised, it was too late. We'd scurpered. Council got it in the neck for removing a protected tree. Council mystified. Very."

"Funnily enough, the big jobs are often the easiest. It's like stealing a grand piano. Nobody stops you, because they can't believe you're not authorised. But you have to be really careful stealing into people's gardens and eliminating their *Leylandii*. A contract killer doing an assassination can kill someone in a second. You can't saw down a tree in a second. And sawing and chopping are bloody noisy, so I have to make sure the coast is clear. Planning, planning, planning..."

Isn't it dangerous work?

"Can be. I sawed through something I thought was a root once. Turned out to be a mains cable. The effect was electric!"

But what about trees falling on top of you, things like that?

"Never happens. Want to know why? Because I never let trees fall down! Even when I've severed the trunks of a line of *Leylandii* I prefer to keep them standing up – prop them up, tie them all together, lean them against something, whatever it takes. What this means is that they may remain standing for days after I've sawn through at the bottom, so the crime isn't discovered until long after I'm off the scene. Sometimes I pass by a garden which I did weeks before and the trees are still standing. Going brown, of course. Often they're watering it like mad to keep it going. No use, of course. Perhaps I should tell them."

And there again, perhaps not.



## Over-tidy neighbours and backward-walking Lords



JOHN WALSH

There are two kinds of neighbour, in my experience. One is the meek and elderly Mrs Goggin into that goodnight, whose husband died 16 years ago of asbestosis, who now smells faintly of dead mouse, and who devotes her twilight years to reading *OK!* magazine, eating custard creams and greeting you on the doorstep with the words: "Allo dear. Off to business?"

The other kind is a horrible bald man called something like Mike Hole, who crams his family of tiny delinquents into a purple Honda Civic, wears Ben Sherman shirts while plying his Black & Decker sanding device in the garden on Sunday afternoons and plays old Blue Oyster Cult records through your wall at such a volume that the Shaker figurines on your mantelpiece come crashing down on the head of the sleeping dog. Neighbours-wise, those are your two basic models, the musty and the nasty. But reading about Mr Kevin Preece this week gave me a job of recognition. With neighbours, as with close encounters, there's a Third Kind.

Mr Preece is the Welsh chap who became so obsessed with tidiness he took to threatening people living beside his bijou Cardiff home. Before he was put on 12 months' probation, the court heard how he kept his flat spotless, then started to pick up litter outside his front door, graduated to clearing away the leaves in the courtyard at Cathays Terrace, spent five hours a day sweeping the street and, by a logical but alarming progression, began checking through windows to see that his neighbours were keeping the insides of their homes up to scratch.

The last straw came when he stood in the street yelling at a woman undergraduate that, if she didn't tidy up her room, he'd blow up her car. It has been suggested that Mr Preece may be "suffering from a form of obsessive-compulsive disorder". I wonder where they got that idea.

The thing is, I'm sure I know Mr Preece. I'm convinced that, before he departed for Wales, he used to live upstairs from me in Putney, south London. He was an unusual Neighbour From Hell in being neither noisy or nosy, just ludicrously punctilious.

He once, without a by-your-leave, removed from the communal doorbell the card on which my name was messily inscribed and replaced it with a typed version. He bought one of those devices with a moveable arrow to tell the milkman how many pints you require, although it was, sadly, stuck on "One" all year. He arranged the letters in the hallway into a neat pile each day with the tax demands at the bottom and the postcard from Goa at the top.

His fastidiousness was linguistic. He talked like a brochure or a police report. He fretted that the opening of a Chinese takeaway near-by would attract "youths". Once he sent me a note saying: "There is a quantity of refuse emanating from the vicinity of your kitchen which is unsightly and unhygienic. Could you therefore...?" (I went to check. An empty, economy-size pack of Doritos corn chips had fallen out of the wheelie-bin). I could happily have strangled him with his own vacuum flex. The feckless slobs of Cathays Terrace have all my sympathy.

anating from the vicinity of your kitchen which is unsightly and unhygienic. Could you therefore...?" (I went to check. An empty, economy-size pack of Doritos corn chips had fallen out of the wheelie-bin). I could happily have strangled him with his own vacuum flex. The feckless slobs of Cathays Terrace have all my sympathy.

I cannot agree with the recent directive from Buckingham Palace that the Lord Chancellor will no longer be required to walk backwards in front of the Queen at the State Opening of Parliament. Some prosaic *chef de protocol* has decided that, because the legal pandrum has to descend some steps during the procession, it would be "more comfortable and safer" if he did it frontwards rather than risk plummeting onto his ermined posterior.

Okay, it'll be better for Lord Irvine. But what about the rest of us? Many taxpayers who have followed the saga of his Lordship's expensive home furnishings would prefer to get more value for money out of him. Personally, I would insist that he not only walks backwards in front of the Queen but keeps her amused with feats of juggling and card tricks, serenades her with "Oh Dem Golden Slippers" on the banjo, and attempts to perform that old Marcel Marceau mime of a man feeling his way across an invisible wall. I'm sure this vaudevilian routine would make a lot of people "more comfortable".

Many executives from television companies have looked through *Hello!* magazine, clocked the gurning faces of the rich and sort-of-famous in their delightful homes, and wondered: could there be a television version? A series of opulent, candid encounters to camera, guided by a presenter with a gift for putting celebrities at their ease. Many producers tried, but the magazine (which celebrates its 10th birthday this week - see Louise Levene on page 15) has always replied with the Spanish equivalent of "Eff off".

Only once did they agree to talk to a TV company about such a plan, and that was because of the calibre of the presenter they were offering. Who was it? Why, Charles Spencer, the heir of Althorp and scourge of journalists everywhere.

He was happy, it seems, to become the television equivalent of the Marquess; in fact, he only pulled out because his father died and he reasoned, sensibly, that it wouldn't do for an Earl to welcome the telly-watching masses into the homes of their betters. It is one of the revelations in *Earl Spencer: Saint or Sinner?*, Richard Barber's splendidly gossipy, if unauthorised, biography of the great man, published next Thursday.

To bolster his researches, Mr Barber called on the opinions of a score of commentators, some well-disposed to the subject, some positively toxic. Among them is David Starkey, the ahabillous historian, who calls the Earl every name under the sun: his fustel speech was, says Starkey, "utterly tasteless and repugnant", "judiciously overblown", "antagonistic" and "preposterous", and the man himself "a self-delusionist" who is destined to become merely "a steady source of increasingly sordid stories for increasingly sordid newspapers".

Whew, Starkey's final words in the book are: "Charles Spencer has had his six and a half minutes of fame. But that's it." According to Mr Barber, what Starkey actually said was, "If I were him, I'd top myself." The publishers left it out. Grounds of taste, apparently.

## Spare me and my fellow men from the new orthodoxy: female good, male bad



DAVID AARONOVITCH

I HAD that Fay Weldon in the back of my studio the other day (I present a books programme for Channel 4), and she was saying that she was worried for men. Not so much for the old dinosaurs, who still think (wrongly) that they rule the earth, but the younger ones, who are not having a very good time. Not only have they lost - like Britain after Suez (my analogy) - a series of old, traditional roles, but their fumbling attempts to find new ones are mocked. Indeed, their very maleness is the subject of continual derision. They are subjected to what she calls "hatespeak".

Anyway, the next morning reading my copy of *The Independent*, I turned first - as ever - to the article by my talented colleague Suzanne Moore, dealing with the revelations of Paul Johnson's adultery. Suzanne was not surprised that the florid Thatcherite enjoyed illicit spanking, and she went on, wearily, "the repertoire of male sexual behaviour is so limited. I could almost feel sorry for them".

Hold on, I thought, does she mean me? Not personally, but everything on the planet with whiskers and vesicles? And if being spanked by a mistress is a sign of a limited repertoire, what represents a multifarious one? Oh please, let it not be the old feminist "cover me in chocolate" one again.

And was this polite "hatespeak"? What, I wondered, would have been made of an article in which a male writer had casually remarked that "women are not, by nature, innovators and one must simply accept the fact"? And yes, I do think that that is a roughly equivalent sentiment.

You see, what I think is being said by Suzanne (and not just by her) is essentially this: all men are wankers. They are wankers literally and - more important - metaphorically. There is something in men that tends to hopelessness, to perpetual adolescence, to retardation. That is presumably why thirtyish women search endlessly for the elusive Mr Right, because most men are so obviously Mr Wrong. It's why, in soap operas, the chaps are stunted, often violent, incapable of communication, or else - a new category this - rapid but pretty boy-men (nice buns, shame about the brain).

Television measures how far (in Fay's words) men have become the "new women". Yesterday, on daytime TV, the Richard and Judy show invited viewers



Men have become the 'new women' - objects to be toyed with and joked about

Bluestone/TCL

to ring and discuss the topic: "I married a corker, but now he's a porker." Accordingly, women, using their real names, phoned ITV with hilarious tales of their husbands' piggings. But imagine that the topic had been "I married a bimbo, now she's a beach-ball"? What man - if he wanted to live - would tell a TV presenter, live on air, how fat his wife had become? It is inconceivable, and not least because, as we know, men who overeat are greedy - while women who overeat are unhappy. And we also know whose fault that is.

Or take Viagra (I will). Can you picture a TV discussion concerning a new pill to increase women's often lamentably low libido, involving men talking about how the old gal had perked up since she started taking Clitalot? Once

chasing female values, female readers, viewers and listeners at all costs. And in chucking out the old male vices of deference and pomposity, they have set about destroying some of the virtues as well. So it's goodbye to earnest suits discussing European Monetary Union on TV, and hello to yet another edition of *Vanessa* and "My dad ran off with my boyfriend".

An excellent version of the orthodoxy was penned by Allison Pearson in yesterday's *Evening Standard*. Writing re poor old Paul, she said, "My generation [ie modern women] believes in serial monogamy. Previous generations [ie men] believed in multiple hypocrisy. We believe in truth in relationships, no matter how destructive. They believed in lies, no matter how

son seem to me to make for bad marriages and unhappy men.

Oh well, says a husky primeval voice in my ear, who cares? Men still run things, give or take a country or two. Let the gals have their fun. As long as we sell papers or programmes, or garner votes, what, me worry? Who gave Suzanne her column in the first place? Joan of Arc?

The husky voice is wrong. There is a gender revolution going on, and it is 90 per cent positive. The communication and social skills that girls possess (possibly innately) are now required: the concentrated, autistic or physical attributes of men are less in demand. The future is female, so we are - even if we stop abusing men - in danger of raising generations of young males who are sullen, demotivated, lacking in self-esteem, but still strong and brimming over with testosterone.

I have no desire to regress. I have always enjoyed the company of women more than that of men and I celebrate the emergence of a new cohort of intelligent and confident young women. I would hate to go back to the days when female potential was stifled, subordinated to the power of men who were never their equals. But I am now becoming burned up with a desire to progress, to move the debate on. To talk about what we are going to do to help boys in school; about how their mothers and fathers should haul them off the soccer pitch and make them do their homework; about how they might benefit more from parents being around during the day and what we're going to do about it.

And let us, for God's sake, find something in male sexuality to enjoy. After all, even women prefer a stiff willy to a perpetually soft one. Or so I am told.

### What man would tell a TV presenter, live on air, how fat his wife had become?

again, if a man's equipment fails he needs a tonic; if women aren't getting it up, then it's likely to be hubby's fault.

These double standards extend to questions like adultery. I am struck by the incongruity of women mocking men who have affairs, while themselves often callously plotting to carry off other women's blokes. Or of mistresses who tape their lovers for the Sunday newspapers and then complain about his "betrayal" of his own wife.

But this is the coming orthodoxy: female good, male bad. Even before Diana died editors and producers were

corrupting. And which is better for the health of society?"

This is a good question. I'm not at all sure that some hypocrisy (and families staying together) isn't better for kids and grown-ups than serial monogamy with its endless divorces and remarriages. And I feel some ambivalence about "truth", too. What, after all, constitutes truth in something as complex as a relationship? Does truth allow you to make love when you do not feel like it, simply for the sake of your partner? Or must you be honest and refuse? Either of the polarities offered by Pearson seem to me to make for bad marriages and unhappy men.

In fact, arms reduction talks between the US and Russia, who together possess more than 90 per cent of the world's nuclear arsenal, are at a standstill, while our own defence planners refuse even to examine the future of Britain's strategic deterrent. With that sort of example, India is understandably not inclined to take lessons.

## Listen here India - do as nuclear nations say, not as they do



RUPERT CORNWELL

WELL, as I'm sure they don't say in Delhi, in for a paise, in for a rupee. In other words, if you've brought sanctions, cuts in foreign aid and the wrath of every righteous nation upon your head for conducting three

nuclear tests, what have you got to lose by carrying out two more a couple of days later? Thus, at one level, may be interpreted this week's underground pyrotechnics by India. But contrary to much received wisdom - not to mention the cant issuing forth from the world's chancelleries - they may not be quite the disaster they are being depicted.

Of course, the move is self-debilitating, as the plunge in the rupee and Indian share prices yesterday indicates. "Mad" (the doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction) might have prevented the Cold War turning hot, but the Indian subcontinent is still a long way from that sort of unwinnable stalemate. Mad implies a second-strike capacity, the certainty

that part of your stockpile will survive an initial attack. A country as poor as India should not be wasting resources on weapons that might only tempt a pre-emptive strike by an adversary; it is economic lunacy.

But who can blame India for acting as it has? You are the world's largest democracy, its second most populous country. But to the north-east you are bordered by an acknowledged nuclear power, China, which in 1962 handed you a stinging military defeat, and on the north-west by an undeclared one, Pakistan, against whom you have already fought three wars and whose nuclear programme has been helped along by none other than China.

If those aren't grounds for

national insecurity, what is? Small wonder support for the tests inside India has been overwhelming. Economic lunacy, sadly, can sometimes be short-term political gold.

At least things are clearer now. India must henceforth be counted the sixth declared nuclear power. Quite possibly Pakistan will carry out one or more tests in retaliation, thus becoming the seventh. But suppose, as Delhi hinted yesterday, the two countries then announce they have completed their programmes and sign up to the Comprehensive Ban Treaty, from which they are the principal absentees. Would the rest of us really be worse off than a week ago, when we could only guess at what has now been revealed?

Officially, of course, no one can admit as much, least of all the club of established nuclear powers. Bill Clinton has imposed sanctions on India, which he never did on fellow club-member China, while Britain proclaims its "shock and dismay" at Delhi's "flagrant disregard" of international opinion.

But India is only treading the path we took 40 years ago. Britain retains nuclear weapons because they are a ticket to the top table, permanent membership of the UN Security Council, and India is entitled to aspire to the same. If nuclear weapons are one reason Britain likes to think it "punches above its weight", a lack of them is one reason India believes it has never counted as it should in world affairs.

Once again, we come to the flaw at the heart of the non-proliferation argument. By what absolute right do Britain, France, the US, Russia and China insist that they alone should possess nuclear weapons? If they really want to persuade others not to develop them, they should travel faster and further down that road themselves.

In fact, arms reduction talks between the US and Russia, who together possess more than 90 per cent of the world's nuclear arsenal, are at a standstill, while our own defence planners refuse even to examine the future of Britain's strategic deterrent. With that sort of example, India is understandably not inclined to take lessons.

### Don't tell Peter

EVEN your best friends won't tell you... at least not when reshuffle time is fast approaching in the Tory Party. But Pandora is happy to let you know that it seems almost certain the Boy Wonder will rearrange his team at the end of this month, whether or not Tony Blair does the same. There is a very strong rumour that Hague wants to move Peter Lilley out of his shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer role in order to bring in John Redwood. Lilley has made a rather feeble showing against Gordon Brown, while the emotionless brainiac Redwood has been all over the airwaves on every possible issue. Pandora's hot tips for election from the Tory backbenches are Ann Widdecombe and Cheryl Gillan, MP for Chesham and Amersham,

who has made a good impression for her work on the millennium bug.

### Pray it opens

WORD has reached Pandora of a remarkable achievement. According to Russian news wire Itar-Tass, a Russian Orthodox priest has become the first clergyman to reach the North Pole via parachute. Immediately upon landing, Father Viktor Smetannikov planted a cross in the ice and commenced praying. According to Father Viktor: "The pole has a purifying power. It is an exceptional place on the globe and God doesn't allow everyone to go there." However, he added a cautionary note to any pilgrims tempted to follow in his footsteps. "Praying at the North Pole doesn't seem particularly beneficial."

## PANDORA

### Gore's Guess

YOU WILL not be surprised to learn that Gore Vidal has a unique slant on Clinton's Zippertgate problems. America's most acidic essayist believes the president's woes all began when he and Hillary put forward their new healthcare plan (later crushed in the Congress) that threatened the US insurance industry. "It's a warning to all other politicians, 'Don't touch our money or we will do to you what we did to the Clintons,'" says Vidal. As for special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, Vidal told *USA Today* that he might eventually be charged with treason and imprisoned. "Just because you don't

like somebody... you're not free to spend the people's money trying to see if he likes to [bleep] girls." Don't forget, Gore is the same fantasist who created Myra Breckinridge.

### Poor Pamela

WHEN it comes to casting the lead characters in "important" bio-pics, Hollywood sometimes goes hilariously astray. Remember Montgomery Clift as a gentle Freud or Kirk Douglas as a boringly sane Van Gogh? Literature lovers have recently been horrified to learn that play-it-cute actress Meg Ryan has her heart set on playing the tortured poetess Sylvia Plath. Now, 20th-century history buffs will be appalled to learn the casting details of an

American television network's production about the late Pamela Harriman. Who has been chosen to portray the clever former US ambassador to France and legendary femme fatale?

The former glamour babe Ann-Margret (right), that's who. This suggests a new parlour game, Hollywood History, in which we can all play casting director and the most implausible pairing wins. How about Paula Yates as Mrs Thatcher? Goldie Hawn as Benazir Bhutto? Madonna as Mother Teresa?



Which bank has excellent TESSAs



Warmer



## Earnings blow to hopes on inflation

By Diane Coyle  
and Les Paterson

THE BANK of England turned optimistic about the inflation outlook yesterday, just as new figures flashed a warning about dangerously strong pay pressures. An unexpected jump in the growth of average earnings dented hopes that any further increase in interest rates could now be firmly ruled out.

The Bank's latest quarterly Inflation Report was noticeably more upbeat in tone than February's, its central message being that inflation was likely to stay close to its 2.5 per cent target during the next two years.

Yesterday also saw the publication of minutes of April's meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), confirming that Charles Goodhart, who had previously voted for a rate increase, had switched sides.

However, Mervyn King, the Bank's deputy governor, warned yesterday that monetary policy remained "finely balanced". A firm hawk on the MPC, his comments on the Inflation Report were tougher in tone than the document itself, suggesting that the committee remains split about its next step.

Mr King said the short-term outlook for inflation was "extraordinarily benign". But he warned, "It is crucial to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the inflation target two years or so ahead", listing several dangers on the horizon.

He drew particular attention to yesterday's figures on unemployment and earnings, and to the potential impact of the minimum wage, due to be introduced next year, on inflation. Its exact level and coverage would determine how much it added to the total wage bill, the Inflation Report warned.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "We have been clear throughout the minimum wage [debate that] it will be done in a way that will not do economic damage and indeed will enhance the performance of the British workforce and economy."

Average earnings increased by 4.9 per cent in February, partially fuelled by a 30 per cent increase in bonuses. The rise was well above expectations.

Initial indications suggest earnings growth was even stronger in March - ONS pre-

liminary estimates put the growth rate at 5.4 per cent. Mr King said: "To hit the inflation target those rates of earnings growth will have to fall back".

Some economists emphasised the fact that the bonus payments were a "one-off" factor. Ken Watret at Paribas added that earnings growth was a "lagging indicator, not a leading indicator".

Nevertheless, the Inflation Report confirmed that pay is one of the more influential economic indicators for the MPC. January's weaker-than-expected earnings growth helped tipped the balance towards a no-change verdict at April's MPC meeting.

The ONS originally estimated that average earnings grew by 4.5 per cent in January, a figure that is "only just consistent" with the inflation target, according to the minutes. Mr King drew attention to growth in manufacturing pay as well as the divergence between public and private sector pay. He added the 3 per cent gap between private and public sector pay was "unsustainable".

A Treasury spokesman agreed, saying private sector pay deals would have to moderate.

April's decline in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit was also greater than many expected. The number on the register fell by 17,700 in April, compared with a drop of 8,300 in March.

The possibility of a steeper fall in the pound than assumed in the forecast posed a second danger for the inflation outlook, according to yesterday's report. "The fall in the exchange rate over the past week has more than offset the rise between the February and May projections," Mr King said.

He added that a further slowdown in domestic demand was also needed. "The Committee will change interest rates in whichever direction is necessary to hit the target."

David Walton, an economist at Goldman Sachs, said: "We could be in for a period of sluggish growth and disappointing inflation," he said.

Ciarán Barr at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell agreed: "There was no signal here that interest rates have peaked."

The next meeting of the MPC is on 3-4 June.

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## Soros may have lost his Midas touch

By Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

IS THE shadow of the man who drove Britain out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism in September 1992 once again hanging over the pound? Well, no, not according to anybody outside his small retinue of advisers.

The financier George Soros is said to have bet heavily - to the tune of \$60m-\$80m (£3.6m-£4.8m) - at the end of March on sterling's exchange rate falling from a level at which one pound bought just over 3.10 German marks to DM2.70 within three months.

But excited reports that the arch-speculator has made as much as \$20m in profit have been greeted with great scepticism in the City, where the pound has reacted to the Soros rumours by rising rather than falling.

Soros Fund Management - which has a policy of never commenting officially on its trades - is said to have bet against sterling by buying "put options" in the foreign exchange markets.

These deals - one type of those mysterious derivative transactions - give their purchaser the right to sell pounds at a fixed rate on a fixed date. If you buy put options that allow you to sell sterling at DM2.70 in three months' time, you expect to be able to buy pounds at a lower rate when that time actually comes and then sell them on at an instant profit to whoever sold you the option.

It is a pure bet on the exchange rate going down. The price depends on the odds the seller of the option places on the outcome.

But almost nobody thinks betting on a falling pound is a big gamble; virtually every pundit has been predicting it for months. Mr Soros will only have done really well if he made his bet against sterling at the right time.

Experts in derivatives doubt he will have made multi-billion dollar profits. Traders report that several funds have been placing the same kind of bet in recent weeks.

In fact, the myth of Mr Soros's Midas touch seems in need of polishing. Another foreign exchange expert said yesterday: "His recent performance has not been spectacular. If he has made a good call this time, no wonder he wants to get people talking about it."

The company chairman, Tom Kirby, who six months ago sold 200,000 shares at 70p, warned that profits in the year just ending would fall short of the £13m the City had been expecting, although they will still exceed the £11.2m it made in the previous year.

He blamed mundane things including the effect of a strong pound on profits, two-thirds of which are earned outside the UK, as well as stock problems caused by moving into new premises. Analysts say the company is paying the price for pushing up prices too aggressively last year. But the shares ended 22p to 632.5p, wiping £70m, or more than 25 per cent, off the value of the company.

Games Workshop rejects the idea that teenage tastes are changing. Parents buy com-



Demonstrators outside Rio Tinto's agn yesterday. The mining group faced criticism from shareholders, unions and environmental groups

## Rio Tinto faces wrath of investors

By Andrew Yates

RIO TINTO, the largest mining group in the world, faced a barrage of abuse from shareholders yesterday about a range of complaints from directors' bonuses to accusations that it continues to ruin the land of indigenous tribes. The group's annual general meeting degenerated into a stormy and bad tempered affair as investors vented their anger on Robert Wilson, the chairman.

There was an outcry from several shareholders over a new incentive scheme, which they claimed would award executives and managers for only a "mediocre" performance. Under the plan, Rio Tinto's performance will be compared to 15 other mining groups. The previous plan was based on the FTSE 100 stocks. Managers will be able to get a 100 per cent bonus for coming fourth in the list of 15 companies and 50 per cent bonus even if it finishes half way up the league table.

The decision to change the scheme, taken after the group underperformed the FTSE 100 last year, was met with derision by some investors. One irate shareholder said: "This is absolutely ludicrous. It appears that people have to be bribed to perform."

There was also a call for Sir Richard Sykes, the non-executive chairman of the

remuneration committee and the man responsible for sanctioning the new scheme, to step down. As head of Glaxo Wellcome, Sir Richard has recently come under attack for his role in the aborted merger with SmithKline Beecham. One shareholder in both Rio Tinto and Glaxo said: "Sir Richard has many other things to do and it would be a good idea for him to reduce his responsibilities."

Shareholders coming into the meeting faced protests from disgruntled unions and numerous environmental and human rights pressure groups.

They claimed that Rio Tinto continued to ignore the land rights of the local population at the Grasberg mine

at Irian Jaya in Indonesia and ignored human rights abuses. In the meeting John Maitland, the head of Australia's coal mining union, claimed that Rio Tinto had awarded extra benefits to workers outside the union. Mr Wilson fired back with a stinging attack on the unions, claiming their campaign was "one of deceit in support of the indefensible, bereft of integrity and propaganda at its most cynical."

He read out a letter from Nelson Mandela which claimed that the unions had deliberately misinterpreted the President of South Africa's comments. He had earlier labelled Mr Maitland as "the Arthur Scargill of Australia".

letter which suggested that French competition authorities had fined Decaux FF1m in the 1980s for abusing its monopoly position. In fact, the fine was never imposed.

Mr Decaux strongly defended his company's strong position in France - currently the subject of another investigation by the French authorities - arguing that economies of scale in the design and manufacture of street furniture allowed the company to offer a better service to smaller towns.

Decaux has promised similar benefits to UK local authorities if its bid succeeds. It has pledged to spend £50m upgrading existing billboards and bus shelters, while offering bus passengers in London free papers which will tell them when their bus is due.

Mr Decaux yesterday admitted to being annoyed by the opposition to the bid. Roger Parry, More chief executive, while officially adopting a neutral position, has made no secret of his belief that the companies are incompatible.

"Ninety-nine of the big contracts in Europe are the result of Decaux visiting the local authorities and selling them the concept," Mr Decaux said. "We are not expecting our competitors to thank us but at least they could be a bit more discreet."

## Games Workshop sees shares dive

By Clifford German

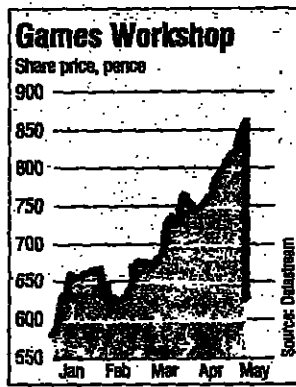
ARE THE seductive charms of Lara Croft - the curvaceous star of Tomb Raider II - overcoming the eternal appeal of toy soldiers for the hearts, minds and pockets of millions of teenage boys?

Yesterday the prospect struck hard at investors in Games Workshop, the Nottingham-based company that specialises in table-top fantasy games played with armies of tin and plastic models of goblins and orcs or sci-fi creatures like space wolves and blood angels.

The company chairman, Tom Kirby, who six months ago sold 200,000 shares at 70p, warned that profits in the year just ending would fall short of the £13m the City had been expecting, although they will still exceed the £11.2m it made in the previous year.

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Games Workshop rejects the idea that teenage tastes are changing. Parents buy com-



puter games for their children, who play them on their own as an alternative to watching TV. Each game requires a certain level of skill and, once reached, the player loses interest and looks for a new challenge.

War-games are a hobby rather than a pastime. Games are played by two or more children, fighting battles with formal rules, using armies of toys that children buy, assemble and paint themselves.

GW's main games are Warhammer 40,000, a sci-fi game with armies of space-age creatures and Warhammer Fantasy, a similar game set in the age of myths and legends. Last month it launched Blood Bowl, a game based on American football, and it hopes to tap markets in China and Japan which could dwarf its existing sales in Europe and North America.

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## Decaux lobbies OFT in bid to win More

By Peter Thal Larsen

THE PRESIDENT of Decaux, the French outdoor advertising group, yesterday warned that British competition authorities could allow US giants to dominate the industry if they blocked his company's offer for More Group, its UK competitor.

In his first interview since Decaux launched its £475m bid six weeks ago, Jean-Claude Decaux said: "The real issue is not whether we have three or four companies bidding for contracts but whether European companies can develop themselves."

He added that the size of US advertising companies and the buoyant stock market multiples they attracted gave them a head start over European competitors.

"I have nothing against America," he said. "But we must ask whether US companies will have too strong a position."

He was speaking after Decaux flew a party of journalists, including *The Independent*, to his headquarters outside Paris.

Mr Decaux's comments came as the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) prepares to pass its recommendation on Decaux's bid to the Trade and Industry Secretary, Margaret

Beckett, who is likely to announce her decision next week. Decaux's bid will lapse if it is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, leaving the way open for Clear Channel Communications, the US outdoor advertising group, to complete its £425m offer for More.

At issue is an obscure but lucrative section of the £500m UK outdoor advertising market. Decaux and More are both experts in the supply of street furniture - bus shelters, public toilets and waste paper baskets - which the companies offer free of charge to local authorities in return for being allowed to sell advertising space on them.

A successful bid would give Decaux a near monopoly of the UK street furniture market. The company, which invented the concept when Mr Decaux set up the business in 1962, already has close to 80 per cent of the market in France.

Decaux and Clear Channel have both lobbied the OFT extensively. Clear Channel has tried especially hard to encourage Britain's local authorities, who award street furniture contracts, to make representations to the OFT.

However, the US group yesterday faced serious embarrassment when it was forced to write to 500 local authorities in the UK, correcting an earlier

## Float windfall for Tetley Tea folk

By Andrew Yates

TETLEY, the group that bought the Tetley Tea folk and round tea-bags, yesterday announced plans for a stock market flotation. Tetley, which makes Britain's favourite cuppa and is the second largest tea producer in the world, is expected to be valued at £400m.

The flotation will give a huge windfall to Tetley's board and the 250 managers that together own more than a fifth of the company.

Leon Allen, Tetley's chief executive, and Roger Price, its finance director, will become tea millionaires many times over after this summer's flotation.

The two executives bought their 8 per cent stake in the group for just over £500,000 when they led a management buyout of Tetley from Allied Domecq in 1995 for just under £200m. When the group reaches the market that stake could be worth more than £20m.

The new funds will be used

to develop new products, such as expanding production for the group's new drawing teabags, designed to prevent annoying drips. Tetley will use its new listing to give it the financial firepower to look at tea and coffee acquisitions.

Tetley has become famous for its TV campaign featuring characters such as Sidney and Gaffer sipping their favourite brew. The introduction of the round tea bag in 1991 saw the group rise into the number one spot in the UK tea market.

### Yesterday in the markets

#### STOCK MARKETS

Indices	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5972.90	18.20	0.27	6190.50	4382.80	3.53
FTSE 250	5788.90	9.20	0.16	5781.70	4384.20	2.79
FTSE 350	2883.70	7.20	0.25	2888.70	2141.80	3.36
FTSE All Share	2827.00	6.91	0.25	2861.12	2108.59	3.36
FTSE Smallcap	2743.70	4.50	0.17	2789.30	2182.10	2.51
FTSE Healthcare	1489.30	4.50	0.31	1484.80	1225.20	3.07
FTSE AIM	1102.90	0.90	0.08	1102.00	965.90	1.06
FTSE EURO 100	1017.25	4.48	0.44	1061.91	897.32	1.34
Dow Jones	8204.62	42.85	0.47	8261.91	6971.32	1.34
Nikkei	18343.81	21.32	0.14	20910.70	14488.21	0.95
Hang Seng	5485.20	-372.22	-6.78	18820.31	7909.13	4.28
Dax	5376.88	75.58	1.50	5442.00	3487.24	1.50

#### INTEREST RATES

Short sterling	UK 10 year gilt	US long bond
3 month 1 yr 5 yr 10 yr	1 yr 5 yr 10 yr	1 yr 5 yr 10 yr
UK 7.48 0.88 7.46 0.54 5.91 -1.08 5.85 -1.23	UK 5.99 -0.12 5.91 -0.32 5.89 -1.02 5.86 -0.97	US 0.25 -0.04 0.58 -0.31 1.57 -1.20 2.18 -1.12
Germany 3.64 0.47 3.25 0.61 5.00 -0.71 5.58 -0.31		

Money Market Rates	Bond Yields
Index 3 month 1 yr 5 yr 10 yr	Index 1 yr 5 yr 10 yr
UK 7.48 0.88 7.46 0.54 5.91 -1.08 5.85 -1.23	UK 5.99 -0.12 5.91 -0.32 5.89 -1.02 5.86 -0.97
US 0.25 -0.04 0.58 -0.31 1.57 -1.20 2.18 -1.12	US 0.25 -0.04 0.58 -0.31 1.57 -1.20 2.18 -1.12
Germany 3.64 0.47 3.25 0.61 5.00 -0.71 5.58 -0.31	Germany 3.64 0.47 3.25 0.61 5.00 -0.71 5.58 -0.31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	Fall
Index Price bid Ask bid Ask	Index Price bid Ask bid Ask
UK 7.48 0.88 7.46 0.54 5.91 -1.08 5.85 -1.23	UK 5.99 -0.12 5.91 -0.32 5.89 -1.02 5.86 -0.97
US 0.25 -0.04 0.58 -0.31 1.57 -1.20 2.18 -1.12	US 0.25 -0.04 0.58 -0.31 1.57 -1.20 2.18 -1.12
Germany 3.64 0.47 3.25 0.61 5.00 -0.71 5.58 -0.31	Germany 3.64 0.47 3.25 0.61 5.00 -0.71 5.58 -0.31

#### CURRENCIES

**\$/£**

	at Sep	Change	1 yr Ago
Dollar	1.6306	-0.38p	1.6325
D-Mark	2.9004	-0.04p	2.7895
Yen	218.79	+0.10	192.78
£ Index	103.30	+0.20	98.60

**DM/£**

	at Sep	Change	1 yr Ago
Sterling	0.6133	+0.15p	0.6126
D-Mark	2.7794	-	1.6981
Yen	134.16	+0.22	117.15
£ Index	110.10	+0.40	103.40

**¥/£**

	at Sep	Change	1 yr Ago
Brent	114.50	2.80	111.48
RPI	160.80	3.50	159.36
Base Rates	7.25	8.25	-

Source: Bloomberg. **OTHER INDICATORS**

	at 12 noon	at 12 noon	at 12 noon
Brent Oil (\$)	14.51	-0.01	13.52
Gold (\$)	298.25	0.25	348.50
Silver (\$)	5.46	-0.33	4.82

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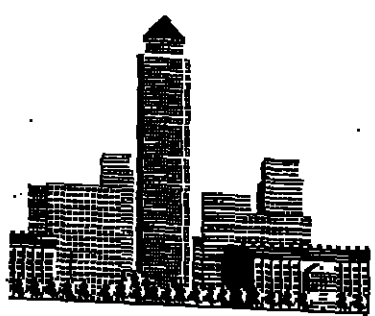
#### TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.4959	Malta (lira)	0.6190
Austria (schilling)	18.76	Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.59
Belgium (franc)	58.13	Netherlands (guilder)	3.1878
Canada (\$)	2.2820	New Zealand (\$)	2.8241
Chorus (lira)	0.8256	Norway (krona)	11.65
Denmark (krone)	10.78	Portugal (escudo)	286.44
Finland (markka)	8.6997	Saudi Arabia (riyal)	5.9457
France (franc)	8.4518	Singapore (\$)	2.5792
Germany (mark)	2.8218	South Africa (rand)	2.8833
Greece (drachma)	488.31	South Africa (rand)	2.8833
Hong Kong (\$)	12.26	Sweden (krona)	7.9775
Ireland (pound)	1.1152	Switzerland (franc)	12.17
India (rupee)	59.85	Thailand (baht)	57.13
Israel (shekel)	5.5560	Turkey (lira)	3951.08
Italy (lira)	2.787	USA (\$)	1.5940
Japan (yen)	214.23		
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0714		

Rates for indication purposes only  
Source: Thomas Cook



## Soros did not move the pound this time



**OUTLOOK**  
ON THE FACTORS  
DRIVING EXCHANGE  
RATES: THE  
FIGHT-BACK BY SAFE-  
WAY; AND A  
SILLY CHANNEL TUN-  
NEL STORY

THERE is probably more nonsense written about the exchange rate than any other subject in finance. People who have to think hard about whether they should divide or multiply to convert a foreign currency into pounds nevertheless feel equipped to proclaim where the exchange rate ought to be, and why and when it will get there.

The Bank of England and Mervyn King, its deputy governor, are more modest. The Bank freely admits to not understanding why the exchange rate has risen as far as it has. None of the obvious explanations – stronger UK growth, rising interest rates, or the pound as a safe haven against a weak euro – can fully account for sterling's climb during the past 18 months. Equally, while everybody agreed that sterling was overvalued given the economic fundamentals, there is no obvious reason why it should have started falling with such dispatch from its unreasonable height just over a month ago.

The one thing that can certainly be discounted as the catalyst is the intervention of George Soros. Hundreds of people and funds have been engaging in the purchase of put options – the right to sell sterling at a lower rate in three months' time. The \$6.5bn Soros is reported to have spent was a drop in this ocean, even if it is true that the arch-financier did catch the tide of market sentiment exactly on the turn. That in itself seems to be in doubt, with some traders claiming that in point of fact he was relatively late into the trend. If true, he's obviously losing his touch.

However, the mere fact that he is be-

ing acclaimed in some quarters as the saviour of the British economy by riding to the rescue of exporters and pushing sterling lower sheds an illuminating light on why the outlook for the exchange rate is so important at the moment.

The strong pound is cited by hawks on the Bank of England's monetary policy committee (MPC) as an important reason why inflation has stayed not too far above its target. Domestic demand is belting away at a still-uncomfortable rate. Other inflationary pressures are starkly revealed by yesterday's shock earnings figures. Without falling costs for imported goods and materials, retail price inflation would have been significantly higher for the past two years.

However, if the pound falls now, it does not give the hawks an open and shut case for raising interest rates. Quite the reverse if the weaker exchange rate anticipates economic slowdown and market expectations of the lower interest rates that will result. But if the depreciation is due to, say, a change of heart about the strength of the new euro, or to the likelihood that domestic inflationary pressure will worsen the balance of payments, it is reason to counteract it with tighter monetary policy.

The point is that there is no hard and fast connection between the exchange rate and interest rates. The long term interests of the UK economy, and this goes for its exporters too, are best served by keeping a steady eye on the inflation target, and commensurate with the parallel aim of achieving sustainable growth, adjusting interest rates to hit it. It is members of the

MPC, and not the speculators, who have the interests of UK PLC most at heart.

### Rumours grind down Safeway

POOR OLD Safeway's. It was perhaps inevitable that as hard as management might try to focus attention on the group's trading figures, everyone was far more interested in the "will-they, won't they" saga of the company's on-off merger with Asda. Safeway is adamant that the whole thing is a no-no. No talks, no advisers meeting in country hotels or chief executives slipping silently into tete-a-tetes at City solicitor offices. Nothing. The nearest thing to a meeting was in February, Safeway says, when its chairman David Webster attended the same shooting party as Asda's Archie Norman. Now please, please, just concentrate on our rather pleasing current trading statement won't you?

Their frustration demands sympathy. Unfortunately, the rumour mill is grinding away to such vigour that it is hard to ignore it. Whether or not the speculation is true, there are enough people in the City willing it to happen that you never know, it might just do so. The more they stir the pot, the more chance they have of bringing the union to fruition.

All this is destabilising for Safeway, which has enough on its plate at the moment. It is a distant fourth in the supermarket battle and its sales per square foot are still significantly adrift. There's now a renewed push on sales, but the cost in terms of investment

in its loyalty card, advertising and more staff is a heavy one. Any sales growth that materialises will be low profit.

The other problem is that we have been here before. A few years ago Safeway claimed it had made a quantum leap with its Safeway 2000 initiative only to find the wheels coming off a little while later. Safeway's present trading performance may be relatively better than Sainsbury's but the City will want to see more than six weeks worth of good numbers before it believes that this business has turned the corner.

Fighting back was hard enough for Sainsbury's, which had the benefit of a strong brand and a strong number two market position. For Safeway, coming back from fourth with a weaker brand and store portfolio will be much, much tougher. And all the while Asda will be watching and waiting.

### Thatcher's legacy for the Tunnel

THE SILLY SEASON has arrived early. There are still two months to go before Parliament rises for the summer recess and newspapers are obliged to hunt harder than usual for items to fill their news columns. But already the first story of the season has been spotted and it concerns that hardly perennial, the Channel Tunnel.

According to a front-page report earlier this week, Eurotunnel has begun sounding out the City on plans to build a second "drive-through" tunnel to France. To avoid congestion and the threat of

accidents, cars would be electronically routed through on "guided roads".

Alas, the story is not new. In fact it is 12 years' old. Eurotunnel's 1987 prospectus contained a section stating that under the concession agreement it is required to put forward proposals for a second link by 2000. But that is only one small part of the story. It does not have to work up a scheme, much less cost it and find the money. Moreover the drive-through link would only be built if technical and economic conditions permitted and it would not undermine the finances of the existing tunnel.

Finally, Eurotunnel has until 2020 to decide whether to build a second link and, for the purposes of financial projections, it does not have to assume that any such link would be built before the current concession expires in 2086.

Since Eurotunnel is now emerging from the biggest debt restructuring in British corporate history and since shareholders will not see a dividend until 2006 at the earliest, the idea of a second link seems a rather cruel joke to play on the investment community.

What's more, the idea of a drive-through link was only ever inserted into the original concession to satisfy the training-hating Mrs Thatcher. Even if the engineers could conquer the monumental problem of how to ventilate a drive-through tunnel, would it remotely fit into John Prescott's integrated transport policy? Eurotunnel has one man working very part time on the scheme, which probably says all that is needed. The world's bankers can sleep safely at night for a generation or two yet.

## Lloyds TSB chief lays into rivals

By Lea Paterson

ONE of the most respected figures in UK banking yesterday launched a scathing attack on the tactics employed by most of his competitors.

Sir Brian Pitman, chairman of Lloyds TSB, claimed the supermarket banks were losing money on each customer and heaped scorn on Barclays' "disastrous" expansionary aims of the late 1980s. He also fired a warning shot to his high-cost competitors, saying the lower-cost banks could make their lives "unbearable".

The Lloyds chief said he was amazed by how few people in banking sat down and studied the market. The man who transformed Lloyds into the UK's largest bank, via the purchases of the TSB and Cheltenham & Gloucester, also criticised the belief that biggest is best.

Speaking at an Institute of Economic Affairs conference in Central London, Sir Brian said: "It's dead easy to increase market share. Just charge lower prices and/or take on more risk. Global market leadership is a cup-out for satisfactory re-

turn on shareholders' funds."

Perhaps the only banks to emerge unscathed from Sir Brian's speech were the Scottish institutions. Sir Brian held up Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland as examples of companies that "produce outstanding results although they have a much smaller market share". He added: "Rightly or wrongly, the Scottish banks have an excellent reputation. Very few people come to me and say the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Bank of Scotland are awful."

The new savings accounts opened by many of the super-markets also came under attack from the Lloyds chief. He said: "Every time you have £10 on deposit at 6.75 per cent you make a loss. If customers take out their money tomorrow, you make a bigger loss."

Sir Brian added that Lloyds could, if it wanted, win customers from Tesco by changing its pricing tactics. "But we're absolutely delighted Tesco have got them [the customers]", he said.

Tesco came in for praise elsewhere in Sir Brian's speech, though. He said the supermarket group's "low per unit



Sir Brian Pitman claimed supermarket banks were losing money and heaped scorn on Barclays' 1980s growth strategy

cost" had allowed it to "give Sainsbury's hell". He added: "Those of us with a low-cost format in the mortgage market could make life unbearable for those who haven't."

Lloyds is generally regarded as one of the most efficient traditional retail banks. Its cost-income ratio is 51.3 per cent, compared to 67.6 per cent for Barclays and 73.8 per cent for NatWest.

Sir Brian used Barclays' "number one by 1991" campaign of the late 1980s to illustrate his view that "volume is vanity; profit is sanity".

Richard Reay-Smith, chief executive of retail banking at Barclays, followed Sir Brian on the podium and said: "I find myself in agreement with everything he said, not least in his characterisation of Barclays in the late 1980s."

## White House to look into mega-mergers

By David Usborne  
in New York

THE US government yesterday announced an investigation into the rash of corporate mergers in the United States, as it emerged that top executives of the Chrysler Corporation stand to pocket as much as \$1bn (£600m) in a share windfall if the planned Daimler-Chrysler merger goes through.

The revelation is sensitive because it raises a question about the motives of company executives in seeking to consummate mergers. The issue is certain to be one of those put under the microscope by the White House. It said it was forming a panel to look into the recent tide of mergers and consider whether they are doing unacceptable harm to competition in the US economy.

The White House mergers panel is expected to be headed by Gene Sperling, chairman of the National Economic Council, with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin among its members. What action the administration could take to slow down the pace of corporate mergers is unclear, however.

One White House official commented: "When there is a major trend like this in American business, there is a presumption that you need to take a look at it. There is no presumption that you need to act."

Aside from the Daimler-Chrysler pact, American business has been mesmerised in recent weeks by such mega-mergers as Travelers-Citigroup and, in the telecommunications, SBC-Ameritech, which was unveiled this week.

Documents filed by Chrysler with the Securities and Exchange Commission show the company's top executives will make the money by converting options granted them under their current pay deals into

shares of the merged entity. Robert Eaton, Chrysler's chief executive officer, could on his own collect shares worth \$100m. The executives would free to sell the shares immediately.

The \$1bn likely to land in the laps of the Chrysler executives is calculated on the assumption that the merger would price Chrysler at \$61 a share.

In addition, any Detroit executives who lose their jobs as a result of the deal are to be offered multi-million-dollar golden parachutes.

Asked about the status of his own options at last week's press conference announcing the deal, Mr Eaton was unwilling to comment.

"My personal situation never came to mind. We are trying to create the leading auto company in the world for the future of all stakeholders," he retorted.

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## Littlechild calls for break-up of Scottish electricity system

By Michael Harrison

THE ELECTRICITY regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild caused outrage north of the border yesterday after calling for the Scottish power transmission system to be split off from the country's two electricity producers.

In a consultation paper outlining his support for separate ownership of electricity supply and distribution businesses, Professor Littlechild said that Scottish Power and Hydro-Electric should be obliged to put the Scottish transmission system and the interconnector to England and Wales into separate ownership. As an in-

terim measure until the legislation was in place, he said their transmission businesses should be placed into separate subsidiaries with their own staff.

The regulator argued that the move would increase competition in electricity generation and supply. But a spokesman for Scottish Power said it would increase costs by several million pounds a year. "Professor Littlechild has taken an extreme position based on a number of misconceptions and we will be writing to him spelling this out and making some points of our own about how competition in Scotland is facilitated."

He also maintained that transmission charges were

lower in Scotland than in England, where the system is owned and operated separately by the National Grid.

Separation of electricity distribution – the local wires monopoly – from supply – the actual sale of electricity, was proposed in the Government's Green Paper on utility regulation in March. However, it left open the option of whether this could be achieved by splitting the ownership or simply by issuing separate licences for different parts of the business.

The regulator's preference is for full separation of ownership, although the consultation paper does not spell out how this would be achieved.

## R-R faces £10m claim over licence deal

By Michael Harrison

ROLLS-ROYCE Motor Cars is facing a £10m claim in the High Court after allegedly reneging on a deal to license the use of its famous trademarks such as the Spirit of Ecstasy on a range of products from perfume to sports goods.

If the action succeeds then one small part of the Rolls-

Royce heritage will remain in British hands after the two German carmakers Volkswagen and BMW have settled their battle for control of the company.

The litigation came to light in the circular to shareholders sent out yesterday by Rolls' parent company, Vickers, urging them to back VW's £430m bid for the luxury car maker.

The British company Classic

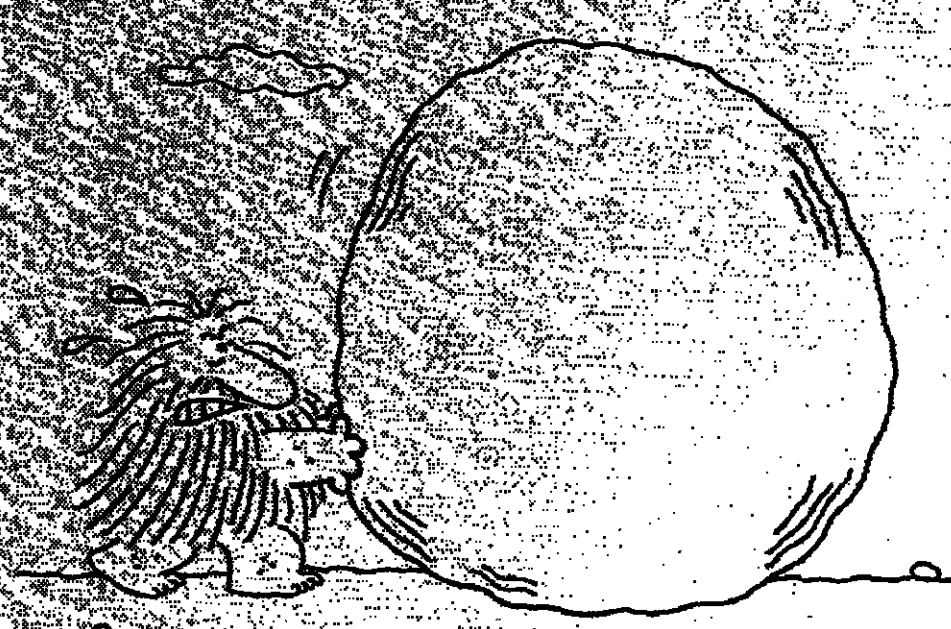
Licensing, part owned by the group that runs the Trocadero complex in London's West End, was granted a licence by R-RMC in May 1996 to use all its trademarks, except for the Rolls-Royce name itself, on a range of perfumes. The agreement was subsequently extended.

But following a change of management at R-RMC the licence was withdrawn a year

later on the grounds that Classic Licensing had not submitted the products it proposed to market for approval.

A writ was issued in last June but Classic Licensing agreed to stay proceedings pending discussions with R-RMC. Proceedings were reactivated this month after Classic Licensing said it became clear R-RMC had no intention of granting a licence.

Those who evolve succeed.





## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

### Sage accounts for its star rating

THE STOCK MARKET charms of financial stocks and pharmaceuticals may be fading, but computer software companies are still flying high at the moment. Strong results from Sage, which develops and distributes branded accounting software to over a million business customers, only served to increase the optimism surrounding the sector yesterday.

It announced a 24 per cent rise in profits to £24m in the six months to the end of March, about £1m more than the City expected.

Sage has yet to see the benefits to the bottom line from the high demand for its services from the millennium bug and the creation of the euro. Europe's new currency. Acquisitions are on the cards and its recently acquired US technology will give it plenty of opportunity to build up new markets in the UK. The results are all the more impressive given that the strength of sterling reduced profits by £700,000. UK earnings rose a third to £13.6m, against a modest 7.5 per cent improvement in continental Europe.

Software companies have been on the crest of a wave over the last few years and the market is still growing rapidly. Of course, the sector is not immune to a cyclical downturn. But if and when it comes they are less likely to suffer from shortages of skilled personnel than the pure IT groups.

And Sage is one of the best companies in the software sector. It has proved to be one of the stock market's dazzling stars over the last few years. Analysts forecast its rapid earnings growth is likely to continue. They have upgraded profit forecasts for the full year by £3m to £48m, rising to £65.2m in the year to September 1999.

But the rub is that Sage is now sitting on an astronomical rating. The shares, which have risen 60 per cent since the start of the year, jumped another 45p to 1,387.5p yesterday. That sort of rating leaves no room for mistakes and even stock market stars must fall to earth sometime. High enough.

### CU and GA are caught in a storm

WHEN Commercial Union and General Accident announced their £14bn merger three months ago it was clear that one of the main reasons for the deal was to counter problems caused by the dire insurance market. Since then things have gone from bad to worse and the deal could not have come a moment too soon.

Severe weather claims have taken a heavy toll on both companies. The worst ice storm in living memory hit Canada, costing GA £72m and dragging profits down from £114m to £63m. Bad weather also cost CU £35m, throwing its general insurance wing into a loss of £4m. Overall, first-quarter profits fell from £102m to £40m.

Both companies have still to absorb the cost of floods in April, which is likely to do similar damage to second-quarter earnings. In recent weeks CU and GA have been two of the worst performing stocks in the FTSE 100, as analysts have downgraded the stock.

And executives at both companies admit extremely competitive conditions in general insurance, especially in commercial risks, have squeezed rates to a level where it is very difficult to hang on to business, let alone make a profit.

But the combined insurer is planning to raise premiums. The two groups believe they can happily boost premiums on personal lines without

#### Sage: At a glance

Market value: £1.618bn, share price 1387.5p (+45p)

Trading record (half year) 97 98

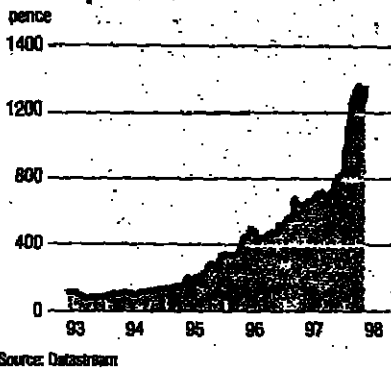
Turnover (£m) 74 89

Pre-tax profits (£m) 19.3 24.0

Earnings per share (p) 12.0 14.7

Dividends per share (p) 1.0 1.1

#### Share price



losing too much custom. But the big commercial business – the sort underwritten at Lloyd's of London – may remain unprofitable for quite a while. In that context, losing market share is a blessing and not a curse. And large cost savings from the merger will help profits.

CU shares firmed 14p to 1,090p while GA rose 10p to 1,077p yesterday, valuing the combined group at £14.22bn. Analysts forecast full-year earnings of 770p per share, putting the group on a multiple of 28. That sounds high. But formal earnings figures fail to take account of capital gains from investments, which would pull that multiple down to around 15. Hold.

### Games Workshop shares fall to earth

GAMES Workshop, the Nottingham-based company had until yesterday enjoyed a meteoric rise on the back of its fantasy games based on figures like Space Wolves and Orcs.

From the group's flotation in late 1994, the shares had risen from an initial low of 106p to a high of 857.5p. Yesterday the sky fell in, with a profits warning caused by the strong pound, temporary stock problems and disruption caused by a move to new premises.

The shares plunged 225p to 632.5p, wiping £70m off the market capitalisation. The fall comes six months after the chairman, Tom Kirby, sold 200,000 shares at 705p. Profits in the year to May are likely to be below market expectations of around £13m.

Games Workshop has done well in the past to keep going in the face of teenage tastes and the company maintains computer games are a separate market to its own where customers buy and assemble model armies of fantasy figures.

But analysts say the company is also paying the price for over-pricing its latest models and have cut forecasts by around 10 per cent to around £11.5m this year and £14.2m next. That brings the shares back down to a slightly more realistic multiple of 26, falling to 21. Crucially, sales in the US are still strong and new games are coming on stream. The shares, though hardly cheap, may be worth a gamble at this price.

# Safeway 'back on track for growth'

By Nigel Cope  
Associate City Editor

SAFeway, the supermarket group which held aborted merger talks with Asda last year, yesterday dismissed suggestions that it had relinked discussions with its rival as it reported strong current trading figures which lifted the shares 12.5p to 376p.

Colin Smith, Safeway's chief executive said he was confident the business had an independent future and that it was building a solid platform for growth. "We are not in discussions and we are not about to announce a merger. We think it is in the best interests of shareholders to continue growing sales and building the business."

The comments came in spite of some industry sources suggesting that the two sides have held discussions since the talks last broke down in September. Some industry experts say that Archie Norman, Asda's chairman is far more keen on a Safeway merger than Allan Leighton, the group's chief executive.

Sources close to Safeway said: "We do not want to continue commenting on market speculation. We are not in talks. We are concentrating on growing the business."

Safeway's comments came as it reported a 13 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £375m for the year to 29 March. However the company said it was addressing problems in product quality, availability, customer service and pricing which have held the group back.



David Webster, chairman (left), and Colin Smith, chief executive, try out the Sizzlers range

Although Safeway's like-for-like sales were ahead by just 2.2 per cent in the year, sales in the six weeks since the year end are 6 per cent ahead of same period last year, helped by investment in prices and additional elements to the ABC loyalty card.

Analysts were sceptical about the figures, saying the sales growth had been bought at the expense of lower margins. "Current trading is better than we expected but will it last?" said one analyst. "We have

seen these sort of false dawns with Safeway before."

Colin Smith admitted that "six weeks' figures do not make a summer" but said the group's growth strategy was back on track.

Analysts questioned whether this was over-optimistic. "We would need to see more good figures than these to be sure if Safeway has really turned the corner," one said.

Profits in the first half of the current year are expected to be significantly lower than the first

half of last year as the group continues to invest in marketing programmes and its loyalty scheme.

Analysts were disappointed by the performance of the Northern Ireland stores. The stores, run as a 50/50 joint venture with FitzWilton, recorded a total loss of £9m. The company admitted that the costs of establishing stores there had been higher than expected.

Safeway's group sales in the year rose by 6 per cent to £7.5bn. The full year dividend was maintained at 14.1p.

## Rates war halves profits at insurers

By Andrew Varity

A WORLDWIDE squeeze on insurance rates and severe weather claims have halved first-quarter profits at General Accident and Commercial Union, the two insurers set for a £14bn merger in June.

Both companies said they remained optimistic that plans to create a pan-European insurance giant would go ahead – despite what they described as "an exceptionally bad first quarter".

Canada's worst ice storm in living memory battered profits at GA, which is the country's biggest insurer. Profits sank by 45 per cent to £40m as the insurer paid out £72m. While CU was less exposed to Canada, its profits plunged by 61 per cent to £40m after it was hit by January storms in Britain and a spate of large fire claims.

Both companies also suffered from an ongoing squeeze on insurance rates for commercial business. Many insurers are believed to be running losses to offer cheaper premiums.

Bob Scott, who is to be chief executive of the new group, said: "We had significant claims from those areas affected by the ice storm: they were very difficult claims and we have only just been able to settle them. There is also continuing competition in all of our major markets."

Mr Scott said the company would begin to raise rates where ever possible. "It's important despite the very tough conditions to monitor the profitability of our products."

Executives said the results underlined the need for a merger, which would result in savings to shareholders of £225m a year. The combined group would command a huge volume of small commercial insurance business around the world.

Sir John Carter, who will step down as chief executive of CU in June, said the merger was on schedule. The first and second tier of management had already been appointed. He added that no decisions had yet been taken on redundancies.

Investment column, this page

## C&W to expand Italian alliance

By Michael Harrison

CABLE & Wireless yesterday unveiled plans for an aggressive expansion of its partnership with Telecom Italia which could include the two groups taking cross-shareholdings in one another and inviting other operators into the alliance.

Dick Brown, chief executive, added that C&W was also focusing on a possible alliance in the US, where the telecoms industry is consolidating through a handful of huge mergers, the latest being the \$62bn (£37bn) SBC-Ameritech deal.

Speaking as C&W reported a 13 per cent increase in pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits last year to £1.6bn, Mr Brown said the Italian alliance could see Telecom Italia take an interest in some of C&W's US and Caribbean operations.

Together the two companies will handle 17 billion minutes of international calls a year, making it the world's second biggest international operator. The alliance will have

access to 140 large urban markets around the world and Mr Brown said it would probably target an additional 60.

Mr Brown said it was possible C&W would choose to "dance with an elephant" as he describes the merged US telecoms operators. However, other options were to grow organically or launch a bid. C&W has a \$1bn of sales in the US and is its sixth largest long-distance carrier, concentrating on the small to medium business sector.

Robert Lerrill, finance director, said C&W might acquire part of Bell Canada's 14.9 per cent stake in Cable & Wireless Communications, which the Canadian group has decided to sell. C&W has a controlling 53 per cent stake in the four-way cable television and telephone operator created a year ago.

C&W is also looking at a flotation late this year or early next year of Optus, the Australian telecoms business in which it has a 49 per cent stake.

## Vanguard hit by rejection of drug

By Michael Harrison

INVESTORS in Vanguard Medica, the biotech group, were left nursing a big headache yesterday after its shares plunged on news that SmithKline Beecham had ditched its key migraine product. Almost £50m was wiped off the market value of the group as its shares tumbled 27 per cent to 432.5p.

SmithKline Beecham has decided not to market frovatriptan, Vanguard's anti-migraine compound. It marks a dramatic U-turn for the pharmaceuticals giant which only a few weeks ago included the treatment in an update on its research and development programme.

Vanguard insisted yesterday that it was confident of attracting a new partner to develop the migraine drug and third parties had already expressed an interest. Its argument was borne out by SmithKline which claimed that there was nothing wrong with the compound but that it had decided to concentrate its marketing effort elsewhere.

But analysts expressed surprise at SmithKline's change of heart, and suggested that the setback raised a question mark about the quality of the drug.

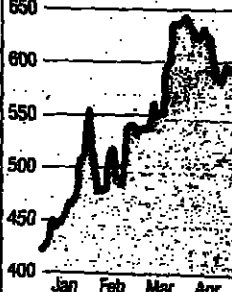
Vanguard admitted that frovatriptan was its key product and that its short term prospects depend on the treatment getting to market. The migraine market is currently worth \$1.6bn a year and analysts believe Vanguard's treatment could achieve sales of several hundred million pounds a year. Frovatriptan is progressing through Phase III clinical trials and is due to be launched next year, although it will face tough competition from the plethora of existing migraine treatments.

SmithKline said that it did not have enough resources to bring all its drugs to the market, which analysts pointed out was a remarkable admission given the size of the company.

SmithKline will instead concentrate on other projects such as Avandia, a new diabetes treatment and Idoxifene, an osteoporosis drug. It is also developing other migraine treatment but denied this was behind the decision to drop frovatriptan. Only last month, SmithKline had highlighted frovatriptan in its annual report as "showing particular promise" and stressed its potential to analysts at meetings in New York and London.

#### Vanguard Medica

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## Airtours buys into German operator

By Andrew Yates

AIRTOURS yesterday announced plans to enter the German holiday market, which sells the highest number of package tours in the world.

It is buying a 29 per cent stake in Frosch Touristik (FTI), one of Germany's largest tour operators, for £17.2m.

The deal will form the central plank of its ambitious plan to grow rapidly in Continental Europe.

Airtours has stolen a march on its British rivals who have also been vying for a foothold in the German market.

Airtours has an option to

take control of the group in 2002, and analysts believe that the company is likely to buy the whole of FTI as soon as possible.

Harry Coe, managing director of Airtours, said yesterday: "Germany is the real prize. All the UK tour operators have been looking at opportunities to get into the market."

Around 19 million Germans, almost a quarter of the population, took a package holiday last year. FTI specialises in providing tailor-made tours for Germans travelling to the US. It also provides long-haul holidays to the Caribbean.

#### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
C & B Publishing (1)	7.21m (4.21m)	-0.18m (0.18m)	2.66p (4.26p)	-
Cowdrey (1)	25.18m (13.21m)	4.53m (3.53m)	6.8p (6.8p)	2.4p (2.3p)
C&W (2)	8.92m (7.07m)	1.58m (1.41m)	32.4p (30.3p)	12.25p (11.1p)
Future (1)	157.85m (133.37m)	13.7m (8.6m)	6.51p (6.84p)	1.90p (1.80p)
Greyhound (1)	-	12.8m (1.3m)	10.6p (1.0p)	1.5p (1.2p)
Paula Brown (1)	6.48m (6.82m)	2.17m (2.15m)	9.2p (8.4p)	2.5p (3.25p)
Salway (1)	7.42m (7.07m)	340.2m (420.6m)	22.1p (26.8p)	9.70p (14.1p)
Sage Group (1)	88.80m (73.65m)	23.97m (19.25m)	14.65p (12.03p)	1.07p (0.97p)
Willingdon Underwriting (1)	-	30.7m (10.5m)	24.5p (20.3p)	7.2p (6.6p)
(1) - Full (2) - Interim (3) EPS is pre-exceptional (4) Dividend to be paid as a RD				

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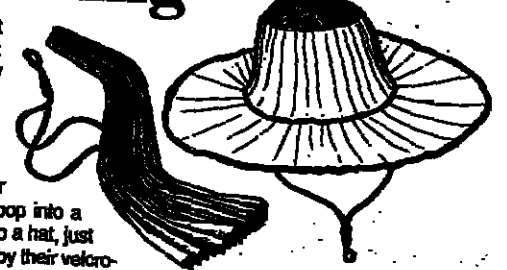
Ideal for packing away into a suitcase or hand luggage without getting crushed or damaged, the Fan Hat is also neat enough to pop into a picnic basket or shopping bag. To transform it into a hat, just open it out and stick the two end panels together by their velcro-style fastening. Made from bamboo covered with cream cotton, it has a long corded wrist strap so is easy to carry around. The hat is on offer for just £12.95 including p&p.

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# The dark side of globalisation where the black economy thrives



**DIANE COYLE**  
ON WHY THE  
G8 IS WORRIED  
ABOUT CRIME

WHAT is the most pressing issue facing the leaders of the world's eight most powerful countries when they meet in Birmingham this weekend for their annual economic summit? Third World poverty and debt? The Asian financial crisis? India's nuclear tests? All these are jostling for space on the crowded agenda. But more fundamental than any of these is international crime, the dark side of economic globalisation.

Half of the four-page communiqué from the finance ministers' pre-summit meeting last weekend concerned new initiatives to tackle financial crime, which Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, described as "one of the major challenges of our time".

Because of its very nature there are no firm statistics on the extent of crime, and it is not even obvious what ought to be included in such measures. What the ministers are concerned about is not so much small-scale activity in the informal economy that falls outside the law, generally by evading tax and regulations, even though recent European Union estimates put this as high as a tenth of member countries' GDP in size.

In fact, there is an obvious solution to this supposed problem, namely cutting through red tape and reducing taxes on small-scale enterprise, in order to encourage what ought to be welcome economic activity.

Rather, the G8's real concern is international organised crime, money laundering and drug trafficking, along with large-scale tax evasion by rogue multinationals. This globalised criminal economy is, on any estimate, huge and pervasive. A UN conference in 1994 reckoned global trade in illegal drugs alone was worth \$500bn (£300m) a year, bigger than the oil business. Global profits from all criminal activities was put in the region of \$750bn to \$1 trillion a year. A big proportion of this is laundered and much actually reinvested in legitimate businesses.

The activities involved range from old favourites such as drugs, arms dealing, prostitution and gambling to newer businesses like trafficking nuclear materials and human organs. And the ingenuity, the sheer entrepreneurship, is breathtaking. A fascinating report published earlier this year by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international financial crime squad based in Paris, lists some of the most popular methods of money laundering.

Using bureaux de change is the latest wheeze. The paper gives an example of one based in a small town in Germany. Its owner, "Peter", frequently exchanged around \$50,000-worth of high denomination foreign currency notes for low-denomination ones at a local bank, explaining that customers preferred smaller notes. When Germany introduced new regulations requiring the reporting of big cash transactions, Peter, who had a police record relating to dealing in soft drugs, started to change smaller amounts and passed the bureau de change on to a new owner, "André". Ironically, the drop in the size of the bureau's transactions made the bank suspicious. A police investigation culminated in the discovery of a drugs-related laundering operation and the arrest of André, who had \$250,000 sitting in his house. Peter and his family fled abroad.

But the FATF paper notes that all kinds of businesses where cash changes hands are popular with launderers - gambling, art auctions, real estate, for example. And while carrying large amounts of cash stuffed into suitcases across borders is still the norm, the task force has grown concerned about the opportunities offered by new technologies. The internet allows for rapid transactions, anonymity, breaks in the audit trail and an alternative to the traditional banking system. Already one internet-based operation, the "European Union Bank" based in Antigua, has been discovered on the net offering total discretion. The authorities are also worried about the opportunities offered by on-line gambling.



Maifoso entrepreneurship may have a perverse glamour but it is a growing problem for G7 countries

bling, art auctions, real estate, for example. And while carrying large amounts of cash stuffed into suitcases across borders is still the norm, the task force has grown concerned about the opportunities offered by new technologies. The internet allows for rapid transactions, anonymity, breaks in the audit trail and an alternative to the traditional banking system. Already one internet-based operation, the "European Union Bank" based in Antigua, has been discovered on the net offering total discretion. The authorities are also worried about the opportunities offered by on-line gambling.

And whereas in a country like Britain, where criminals seem to have lost their share in export markets just as steadily as its manufacturers, it is easy to dismiss the international crime problem as a distraction from the real issues, the damaging spillovers are more obvious elsewhere. Russia is a glaring example, where the fact that it is hard to run a business that does not engage with the mafia

threatens the entire economy. Protection payments are thought to amount to 10-20 per cent of the entire turnover of Russian business - certainly not conducive to growth and investment. However, even in a G7 country like Japan, organised crime has had a malign impact. The yakuza played a big part in triggering the country's debt crisis which has kept it mired in stagnation by forcing Japanese banks to make unprofitable loans. They have also, incidentally, invested heavily in the US stock market and American real estate.

This gets to the heart of why financial crime matters so much for the G8 leaders. Organised crime is the network business par excellence, thriving under globalisation thanks to all the new opportunities for crossing borders, able to absorb huge amounts of risk and to strike mutually profitable deals with equivalents overseas. It has reached a scale where it threatens the ability of governments to run their monetary and banking policies, and keep their financial markets

stable. It is not beyond the ability of the yakuza to trigger a Wall Street crash, for instance. A large part of the G8 economies - and more of some smaller economies - has no official existence and is therefore outside the range of economic policy.

More important, as Berkeley sociologist Manuel Castells points out in the third volume of his epic work, *The Information Age* (published by Blackwell), is the way extensive criminal business is corroding democratic and market institutions. In one of the periodic bouts of realism to strike the profession, economists are placing increasing emphasis on the role institutions play in determining economic outcomes. It is widely accepted that corruption and cronyism played a significant part in Asia's crisis, for instance. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the support of the rest of the G7 and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, has emphasised the importance of transparency, accountability and good governance in crisis-prevention.

For without a rule of law and reasonably non-corrupt institutions and governments, markets cannot work. It is probably inevitable that vibrant capitalism will always have a criminal element, as misdirected entrepreneurship spots more profitable opportunities than are available in legal activities. It even has a certain perverse glamour, or so the popularity of thrillers and action movies would suggest - more glamour, anyway, than the conventional world of business and finance. It's hard to see Quentin Tarantino going for any dialogue about put options.

But when the criminal element grows too large it eats the foundations of the bulk of the economy from within. It is growing alarmingly now, exploiting more efficiently than any multinational the opportunities afforded by globalisation. If globalisation is going to be able to deliver its potential economic gains, the G8 will have to come up with more effective means of pest control.

## PEOPLE & BUSINESS

**JOHN WILLCOCK**



THE ASSOCIATION of British Insurers (ABI) is losing a lame duck and gaining an old warhorse. In comes new chairman Sandy Leitch, chief executive of British American Financial Services (BAFS), and renowned in the industry as a tough operator. Out goes Roger Taylor, the former head of Sun Alliance who lost his company role following the Royal Sun Alliance merger, prompting some cynics to dub him a "lame duck chairman".

The ABI's top job is usually rotated around the eight largest companies. Mr Leitch will take over at the ABI's AGM on 8 July, and says his priority is to make "the British insurance industry the best in the world". Commendable sentiments. The ABI's 450 corporate members, after all, represent over 200,000 employees and manage a total of £540bn.

Odd then that Mr Leitch has spent the last 18 months since ousting George Greener from BAFS (who in turn had arrived from Mars) in leading BAFS towards a "merger" with Zurich, to form Zurich Financial Services Group - headquartered in Zurich. That looks more like selling out to the Swiss to me.

Anyway, Mr Leitch will hold the ABI position for one year, and will not be paid a penny for it. I suppose this makes him a "thin cat". Mark Boleat, full-time director-general of the ABI, will certainly have his work cut out keeping up with the energetic chairman.

Mr Leitch says his priorities at the ABI are to "regain the confidence of the consumer after the pensions mis-selling scandal and demonstrate that recompense is being made". So how will he balance the onerous responsibilities at the ABI, I ask him? "I work long and hard," he replies.

Fasten your seat belts, it's going to be an interesting year.

WE'RE used to hearing about UBS people bailing out of the London operation following the SBC merger. Now UBS's top man in Germany has defected to rival Credit Suisse First Boston.

In a rather un-continental, almost indecently Anglo-Saxon-style head hunting operation, Dr

Gerhard Heinrich, presently chairman of UBS (Germany), has been poached to become chairman of CSFB's German operations from 1 August. Dr Heinrich will also be a deputy chairman of CSFB Europe and a member of the CSFB European Executive Board. A spokesman for CSFB says that Dr Heinrich is "regarded as a hard hitter in Germany. The appointment signals that CSFB is serious about Germany and will be doing things there."

JOHN RUDGARD, the grand old man of cider who retired from Bulmers last month after 33 years with the company, has joined Jennings Brothers, the Cumbrian brewer and pub operator, as a non-executive director.

The apple-cheeked Mr Rudgard spent his last 10 years at Bulmers as chief executive, and made way in April for Michael Hughes, who arrived from Guinness.

Mr Rudgard left Bulmers at a low point in its fortunes. The maker of Britain's leading cider brand, Strongbow, issued a profits warning on Christmas sales, prompted by cheap lager imports from the Continent.

Aged 58, married with four children, Mr Rudgard always had a banking for the pub trade, and even pondered whether Bulmers should buy some pubs or a small brewer, although it never did.

Trevor Greening, chief executive of Jennings, laughs at the suggestion that Mr Rudgard's appointment presages Jennings going into cider making.

"Certainly not, no no... cider making is a highly specialised business," he chortles.

Jennings was founded in 1828 and is now based in Cockerham, the home of William Wordsworth. The company is listed on AIM, made £2m profits last year and owns 117 pubs. But it won't be making any cider.

CASTING my eye over the latest economic analysis from BT Alex Brown's Ian Amstad, I read: "One more wobble for the loonie?"

Somewhat bemused, I persevere: "Although the Canadian dollar remains undervalued on PPP arguments one could paint a bearish scenario for the currency and it is vulnerable to another speculative attack. This is partly because of the Bank of Canada's perceived ambivalence toward the loonie..."

Mr Amstad is quick to reassure me of his mental health. "Loonie is the local nickname for the Canadian currency. Some people also call it the 'canuck buck'."

STILL on the subject of dealer-speak, we've had the Goldilocks Enigma - "not too hot, not too cold," - now Barton Briggs of Morgan Stanley brings us "Alice in Wonderlandland".

For the third year in a row, he writes in a note this week, real returns for American equities approached 30 per cent. Over the last two centuries American equities have delivered a real return of 7 per cent per annum.

Mr Briggs then warns: "Lewis Carroll once said *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* were exercises in pure fantasy. The mutual fund investors who think the future will be like the recent past are similarly afflicted."

Foreign Exchange Rates			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Interest Rates			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Bond Yields			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Money Market Rates			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Other Spot Rates			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Commodity Indices			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Energy			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Agricultural			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Latest Unit Trust Prices			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Financial Futures			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Industrial Metals			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

Precious Metals			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	25848	25888
Australia	25848	25848	25848
Canada	25848	25848	25848
France	25848	25848	25848
Germany	25848	25848	25848
Italy	25848	25848	25848
Japan	25848	25848	25848
Spain	25848	25848	25848
Sweden	25848	25848	25848
Switzerland	25848	25848	25848
US	25848	25848	25848

It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen. - OLIVER HOLMES

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# Springs reigns in a Dante inferno

## Racing

By Richard Edmondson  
at York

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his skittish display in the paddock. When the lead got trapped in his bridle the colt's demeanour did not improve.

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## York

### 2.05 Lido

### 2.35 DANETIME (nap)

### 5.10 Persian Punch (nb)

### 4.00 Greek Dance

### 4.10 Tom Dougal

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### 5.10 Generous Libra

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## Hyperion

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### 2.35 DANETIME (nap)

### 5.10 Persian Punch (nb)

### 4.00 Greek Dance

### 4.10 Tom Dougal

### 4.40 Calcutta

### 5.10 Generous Libra

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### 4.40 Calcutta

### 5.10 Generous Libra

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European Cup-Winners' Cup final: Italian substitute strikes out stalemate to signal end of Stuttgart's challenge

# Zola's instant impact for Chelsea

By Phil Shaw  
in Stockholm

Chelsea  
VFB Stuttgart

GIANFRANCO ZOLA, with a single flash of the brilliance which once made him a fixture with the *Azzurri*, sparked a rhapsody in blue with the goal which restored the European Cup-Winners' Cup to Chelsea after a gap of 27 years in the Rasunda Stadium last night.

With only his second touch after being introduced as a substitute 19 minutes from time, Zola secured a deserved victory over a Stuttgart side who flattered to deceive. The dismissal of Dan Petrescu, for a foul on Murat Yakin 15 minutes later, could not diminish Chelsea's joy. The Germans also finished with 10 men following a stoppage-time red card for Gerhard Poschner.

The setting could hardly have provided a more vivid contrast with Chelsea's last visit to Scandinavia, at the blizzard-bound Norwegian outpost of Tromsø last October. The sun was just setting on a balmy day in the Swedish capital as combat commenced. Instead of a snow-covered huddle, some 16,000 Chelsea fans, clad almost exclusively in replica shirts, began the evening in vociferous voice.

As they roared out that most incongruous of anthems, the one about 10 men going to mow a meadow, it became apparent that the much-criticised pitch had indeed been cut and rolled overnight. However, the numerous threadbare patches scarcely made it a suitable surface for such an occasion.

The conditions may have had some influence on the decision to leave Gianfranco Zola on the bench. The diminutive Italian, who had missed the previous three matches because of a groin injury, gave way to the towering Tore Andre Flo. Graeme Le Saux also missed out because of a calf strain, prompting Gianluca Vialli to call up Danny Granville.

Stuttgart, who were without the suspended libero Frank Verlaat, have leaked goals repeatedly in the second half of the season. With Chelsea's back line also noted for their largesse, there was an openness to the exchanges not normally seen in European finals.

Although the first chance went to Chelsea - a shot which Roberto di Matteo scuffed wide after only five minutes - the better opportunities belonged to their opponents. Much of the danger stemmed from the elusiveness of Stuttgart's lavishly



Gianluca Vialli, Chelsea's player-manager (left), rises to the ball ahead of Stuttgart's Thomas Berthold during last night's Cup-Winners' Cup final in Stockholm. Photograph: Reuters

gifted midfielder Krassimir Balakov.

Chelsea might have used a man-marker, such as Eddie Newton, to curb the Bulgarian's wiles. In the event, Dennis Wise stayed closest to him, one first-half flashpoint earning the Englishman a yellow card. Yet Balakov still broke free in pursuit of Fredi Bobic's pass in the 19th minute, forcing an important parry from Ed de Gooijer.

Even before that, Bobic had dragged an angled shot wide following a sliced clearance by

Steve Clarke, while Thomas Berthold's header from a Balakov corner also missed. Chelsea threatened at set-pieces, with Flo heading narrowly over after one free-kick.

As half-time approached, however, Gustavo Poyet brought a desperate save from Franz Wohlfahrt. Wise beat the goalkeeper from fully 25 yards, but his shot was slightly off-target.

The absence of Le Saux deprived Chelsea of one of their main sources of crosses, which meant they were seldom able to

exploit Flo's strength in the air. Ironically, Zola's long-striding replacement delivered precisely the kind of centre he himself craved shortly after half-time, only for a German head to clear as Poyet climbed to meet it.

Chelsea picked up the clearance and maintained the pressure on Stuttgart. A neat move ended with Wise, lurking outside the penalty area, pulling his drive only inches wide of the upright.

The defensive slackness which allowed Stuttgart to carve through all too easily during the

early stages seemed to have been put behind them after half-time. Michael Duberry and Frank Leboeuf kept a tighter rein on the front two, while Balakov's only contribution to his team's faltering efforts in the second period was a free-kick from the "D" which came to grief on the blue-shirted defensive wall.

A pattern of steady Chelsea pressure, albeit largely bereft of penetration, was duly established. Granville, the 23-year-old reserve full-back who cost a mere £250,000 from Cam-

bridge United, proved himself a hard working understudy for Le Saux. He might even have broken the deadlock after 67 minutes with a low drive through a crowded penalty area, but Wohlfahrt dived the ball diving to his right.

In an inspired attempt to turn advantage into a precious breakthrough, the Chelsea coach, Graham Rix, finally summoned Zola with less than 20 minutes remaining. The consequences were dramatic.

With his first touch, the sub-

stitute gave the ball away. His next buried a glorious rising shot into the top left corner of the Stuttgart net, after Wise had sent him scampering through the centre.

Chelsea (4-4-2): De Gooijer; Clarke, Duberry, Leboeuf, Granville; Poyet, Wise, Di Matteo, Flo; Stuttgart (4-4-2): Flo; Zola, 73; Vialli, Schuster, 68; Hughes, Myers, Charvet, Morris, Hirschbuhl (67).  
VFB Stuttgart (4-4-2): Flo; Zola, 73; Vialli, Schuster, 68; Hughes, Myers, Charvet, Morris, Hirschbuhl (67).  
Referee: S. Brandt (Italy).  
Nationwide play-offs, page 27

## Pienaar accused in Luyt's outburst

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

LOUIS LUYT was never likely to go quietly. Springbok rugby's disgraced ex-president bade a predictably undignified farewell yesterday by branding South Africa's white minority as "spineless" and attempting to tarnish the reputation of Francois Pienaar, the heroic captain of the 1995 World Cup winners.

Luyt relinquished his iron grip on the South African Rugby Football Union last week following a concerted government-backed campaign by the National Sports Council, which accused him of allowing racism, corruption and nepotism to flourish unchecked in the Springbok hierarchy. As a result, the NSC yesterday rescinded its call for a renewed international boycott and gave its blessing to a summer "fast" programme featuring visits from Ireland, Wales, England, Australia and New Zealand.

However, Luyt gatecrashed the peace declaration by lambasting former colleagues in the highest echelons of South African rugby. "White people no longer believe they can protect what is important to them," he said in an interview with *Volksblad*, an Afrikaans newspaper. "They are spineless. There is no marrow left in their bones."

He went on to accuse Pienaar, who inspired Saracens to victory in last Saturday's Telford's Bitter Cup final, of accepting more than £180,000 to talk his Telford colleagues out of joining Kerry Packer's proposed rebel circus almost three years ago - a deal Luyt alleged was kept secret from the Springbok squad.

Pienaar, already deeply offended by Luyt's earlier description of him as a "Judas", reacted with an outburst of righteous anger. "He must stop his accusations and if he continues to call me a 'Judas', he has a big problem," he said.

South African rugby was given a reminder yesterday that some things are more important than political intrigue and public back-biting, when the international Dick Muir retired. The 33-year-old Western Province centre temporarily lost feeling in an arm and leg after a collision last month and doctors warned that he risked paralysis by continuing to play.

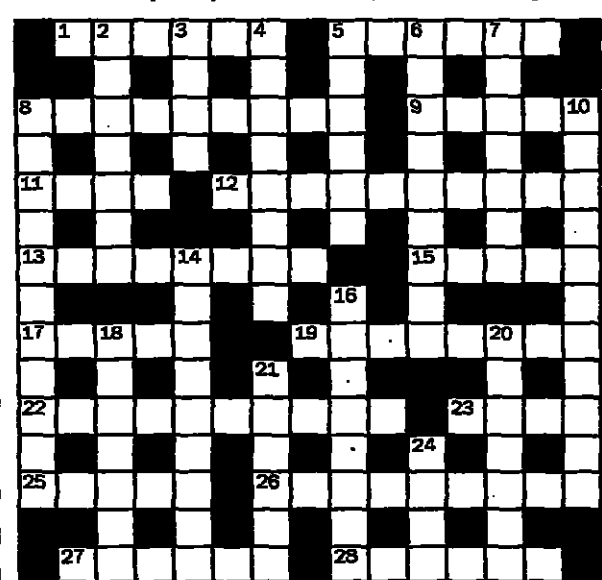
Greenwood out of tour, page 26

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3618 Thursday 14 May

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



#### ACROSS

- 1 Tough cop's quit pre-nuptial (6)
- 5 Sponge has urge to enter pub (6)
- 8 Press icon's innovative schemes (9)
- 9 Tows, pulling in last of ramshackle vehicles (5)
- 11 Most of rubbish is in ship (4)
- 12 Mediator has an instrumental part to play? (10)
- 13 Delighted with trendy European article - a watch (8)
- 15 Form of item carried by GI? (5)
- 17 I struggled with enveloping leaves (5)

- 19 Skilful techniques rendering scenic SE (8)
- 22 Smashed offbeat instrument (10)
- 23 Score nil in sport (4)
- 25 The Aga's rank? (5)
- 26 Vague one, abstract, interrupting me (9)
- 27 Pain gets the Parisian, and it pounds (6)
- 28 Note about Sa cash found in mission (6)
- 2 DOWN
- 2 Discordant notes in strain (7)
- 3 Gulls ignoring first of sea urchins (4)
- 4 Gross takings of a tart (8)
- 5 Love, accepted by crushes, infatuates (6)

- 6 Doctor's hoarding antiquated, dead precious articles (4,5)
- 7 A ground nutmeg's swell (7)
- 8 Wide character of urbanisation? (4,7)
- 10 It takes some beating! (11)
- 14 At home (flat, we hear) chap's easy-going (9)
- 16 Ruffian male in grip of misgiving (8)
- 18 Exquisite fashionable present? (7)
- 20 Warning hoot (7)
- 21 Counsel reduced part of speech with formality (6)
- 24 Fray (fighting) round East (4)

## Henman succumbs to Rios' heat strokes

Tennis

By John Roberts  
in Rome

EVENING shadows spread across the Centre Court at the Foro Italico and a gentle breeze eased the fierce temperatures, which had touched 100 F again. With the heat of the day went the intensity of battle, at least as far as Tim Henman was concerned. The Briton's game was stripped bare by Marcelo Rios's searing groundstrokes on the clay of the Italian Open.

Henman's torture was mercifully brief. He was dispatched, 6-3, 6-1, after only 55 minutes, the second set proving ominously similar to Rios's domination of the third set of their previous meeting on a concrete court at the Lipton Championships in Florida in March. On that occasion it was a 6-0 whitewash, but the difference was purely mathematical.

Having capitalised on the Frenchman Fabrice Santoro's dismal performance in the first round, Henman was simply unable to cope with Rios as the Chilean world No 3 worked his recently injured elbow into shape for an assault on the French Open the week after next.

Henman knew he would have to serve exceptionally well

against his occasional doubles partner if he was to gain time to play his first volley or set himself for a rally but, when he failed to impose his strengths, Rios pushed him farther and farther back until he was out of contention. A Chilean colleague asked Henman why he had not put more pressure on Rios. "Probably because I wasn't able to," the Briton replied. "When you play a person of his calibre, he's not easy to come in against."

Rios concurred. "I feel I played a perfect game," he said, adding that he enjoyed competing against opponents who serve and volley, but conceding that Henman "seemed to be playing too much from the baseline, but when he came in I passed him."

Henman had precisely one opportunity, as early as the second game. Having created the break point by luring Rios into netting a forehand, the Briton promptly hit a backhand approach over the baseline. Rios broke in the next game and again in the ninth, Henman compounding matters by double-faulting on the second set point.

Thirty six minutes into the match, Henman found himself endeavouring to make the score respectable, and whistles from the crowd greeted the more elementary of his errors. "The

thing is," Rios said, with the merest hint of sympathy, "he's a serve and volley player, and for him to play me on grass would be like me playing him on clay. I played pretty good, and had the game to do it. But I think Tim has possibilities if he tries to do it."

Pete Sampras, Henman's doubles partner here, defeated Magnus Norman, the man who denied him his dream of winning the French Open last year by eliminating the American in the third round. Sampras required six set points to take the first set and his Swedish opponent had treatment to his right shoulder early in the second set, Sampras winning, 7-6, 6-4 after two hours and seven minutes.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, whose last tournament triumph was in a tented arena in Battersea Park in February, advanced to a third-round meeting with Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion. Kafelnikov, the sixth seed, recovered from a sluggish start to defeat the American Todd Martin, 1-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Krajicek, the No 11 seed, was too strong for Nicolas Escude, overwhelming the Frenchman, 6-3, 6-3. Alex Corretja, the Spaniard who defeated Rios in last year's final, was eliminated by Karim Alami, of Morocco, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4.

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